

IN THE FIGURES

Attached as Appendix 1 are 22 sheets of formal drawings of Figures 1-21D. The formal drawings are submitted in response to a request in the Office Action.

In order to prepare formal drawings and correct inconsistent reference number usage therein, Applicant has amended Figures 8A, 8D, 8G, 9A, 9G, 9I, 10A, 10D, 10E, 11C, 13A, and 18D as described below and indicated on the annotated version of the drawings attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

Figure 8A, Applicant has deleted the text "EMI SHIELD" from the drawing.

Figure 8D, Applicant has deleted the text "FLEXIBLE ARM" from the drawing.

Figure 8G, Applicant has deleted the text "RUBBERIZED GRIP" from the drawing.

Figure 9A, Applicant has deleted the text "OFF-SET PUSH TAB" from the drawing.

Figure 9G, Applicant has deleted the text "SNAP-ON HOOK" from the drawing.

Figure 9I, Applicant has deleted the text "ORIENTATION INDICATOR" from the drawing.

Figure 10A, Applicant has deleted the text "(1) ACTUATOR-KICKER" from the drawing.

Figure 10D, Applicant has deleted the text "(3) NOSE GRIP" from the drawing.

Figure 10E, Applicant has deleted the text "(2) WITHDRAWAL TAB" from the drawing.

Figure 11C, Applicant has deleted the text "BOTTOM CAGE" and its reference line from the drawing. Applicant has further added a reference number 1108 consistent with the reference number 1108 shown in Figures 11B, 11D, and 11E.

Figure 13A, Applicant has amended an incorrect reference of "Fig. 14A" therein to --Fig. 13B-- around a dotted box so that the proper magnified view, Fig. 13B, is identified.

Figure 18D, Applicant has amended a reference number "708A" to --709A-- to correct an incorrect reference number. Reference number 709A is an optional pull grip of the withdraw tab 708A.

Attached as Appendix 2 are 6 annotated sheets of drawings of Figures 8A, 8D, 8G, 9A, 9G, 9I, 10A, 10D, 10E, 11C, 13A, and 18D to show these drawing amendments.

The clean drawings of these amended figures are included as part of the 22 formal drawing sheets in Appendix 1.

Attachments: Appendix 1 22 Formal Drawing Sheets
 Appendix 2 6 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 3, line 9, please amend the paragraph starting there-at as follows:

"Figure 4A is an exploded view ~~for~~ from the rear of an embodiment of a hot pluggable fiber optic module."

Page 3, line 11, prior to "Figure 5 ...", please insert the following two paragraphs:

"Figure 4B is a magnified view of a side of a male electrical connector to provide hot pluggability.

Figure 4C is a magnified view of another side of the male electrical connector to provide hot pluggability."

Page 4, line 3, prior to "Figures 10A-10E ...", please insert the following paragraph:

"Figures 9A-9I are various views of an embodiment of a kicker-actuator for fiber optic modules."

Page 4, line 3, please amend the paragraph starting there-at as follows:

"Figures 10A-10G ~~10E~~ are views of a subassembly of the fiber optic modules of Figures 7A-7D illustrating the pull-actuator of Figures 7A-7F 8A-8G and the kicker-actuator of Figures 9A-9I assembled coupled to the nose receptacle ~~of Figures 8A-8E and the optical port of Figures 9A-9E of fiber optic modules.~~"

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 10, 23, and 26 as follows below.

Please add new claims 50-62 that follow below.

MARKED UP CLAIMS

1 1. (Original) A fiber optic module comprising:
2 a push-actuator to release the fiber optic module from a
3 cage assembly; and
4 one or more electro-optic transducers to convert optical
5 signals into electrical signals or electrical signals into
6 optical signals.

1 2. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 wherein,
2 the fiber optic module is an SFP fiber optic module and
3 the cage assembly is an SFP cage assembly.

1 3. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 wherein,
2 the push-actuator is a push button.

1 4. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 wherein,
2 the push-actuator is a kick actuator.

1 5. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 wherein,
2 the push-actuator includes one or more grooves to
3 slideably engage the fiber optic module.

1 6. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 wherein,
2 the push-actuator slides to release the fiber optic
3 module from the cage assembly.

1 7. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 wherein,
2 the push-actuator includes
3 one or more ramps which cause the fiber optic module to
4 be released from the cage assembly when the push-actuator is
5 pushed.

1 8. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 further
2 comprising:
3 a second actuator with one or more ramps along one side,
4 the push-actuator causes the second actuator to slide to
5 release the fiber optic module from the cage assembly.

1 9. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1 wherein,
2 the push-actuator includes
3 an orientation indicator to indicate the fiber optic
4 module which the push-actuator releases.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ fiber optic module of
2 ~~claim 1 wherein,~~ comprising:
3 a push-actuator to release the fiber optic module from a
4 cage assembly, the push-actuator includes

5 a push tab,
6 a shaft coupled to the push tab at a first end, and
7 a hook coupled to a second end of the shaft; and
8 one or more electro-optic transducers to convert optical
9 signals into electrical signals or electrical signals into
10 optical signals.

1 11. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1
2 wherein,
3 the push-actuator is located at a bottom side of the
4 fiber optic module.

1 12. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1
2 further comprising:
3 a nose having a nose grip to pull out on the fiber optic
4 module.

1 13. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 1
2 further comprising:
3 a pull-tab to disengage the fiber optic module from the
4 cage assembly.

1 14. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab includes a shield to contain EM radiation.

1 15. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab is located at a top side of the fiber optic
4 module and the push-actuator is located at a bottom side of
5 the fiber optic module.

1 16. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab is located at a bottom side of the fiber
4 optic module and the push-actuator is located at a bottom side
5 of the fiber optic module.

1 17. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab is coupled to ground.

1 18. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab includes
4 a pull grip having dimples to prevent slippage.

1 19. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab is formed of a conductive material.

1 20. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab is formed of a solid material.

1 21. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab is formed of metal.

1 22. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the pull-tab is formed of a plastic.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ fiber optic module of
2 ~~claim 13 wherein,~~ comprising:
3 a push-actuator to release the fiber optic module from a
4 cage assembly;
5 a pull-tab to disengage the fiber optic module from the
6 cage assembly, the pull-tab includes
7 an arm to couple to the fiber optic module, and
8 a handle at an end of the ~~[[lever]]~~ arm for a user
9 to grab the pull-tab; and
10 one or more electro-optic transducers to convert optical
11 signals into electrical signals or electrical signals into
12 optical signals.

1 24. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 wherein,
3 the handle of the pull-tab has
4 a grip to grip the handle with one or more fingers
5 of the user.

1 25. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 a nose having a nose grip to pull out on the fiber optic
4 module.

1 26. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ fiber optic module ~~of~~
2 ~~claim 13 wherein,~~ comprising:
3 a push-actuator to release the fiber optic module from a
4 cage assembly;
5 a pull-tab to disengage the fiber optic module from the
6 cage assembly, the pull-tab includes
7 a pull grip,
8 a lever arm coupled to the pull grip,
9 a shield coupled to the lever arm, and
10 grounding tabs coupled to the shield; and
11 one or more electro-optic transducers to convert optical
12 signals into electrical signals or electrical signals into
13 optical signals.

1 27-39. (Cancelled)

1 40. (Original) A fiber optic module comprising:
2 means for converting optical signals into electrical
3 signals or electrical signals into optical signals; and
4 means for disengaging the fiber optic module from a cage
5 assembly by depressing a push button.

1 41. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 40
2 further comprising:
3 means for slideably engaging the means for disengaging
4 the fiber optic module.

1 42. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 40
2 further comprising:
3 means for withdrawing the fiber optic module from the
4 cage by pulling.

1 43. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 40
2 further comprising:
3 means for slideably engaging the means for disengaging
4 the fiber optic module.

1 44. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 40
2 further comprising:

3 means for indicating the fiber optic module which the
4 means for disengaging releases.

1 45. (Original) The fiber optic module of claim 40
2 wherein,
3 the means for disengaging the fiber optic module
4 includes,
5 means for lifting a latch to disengage the fiber optic
6 module from the cage assembly by depressing the push button.

1 46. (Original) A method of disengaging a fiber optic
2 module from a cage assembly comprising:
3 pushing a push-button to release a latch; and
4 pulling a pull-tab to disengage the fiber optic module
5 from the cage assembly.

1 47. (Original) The method of claim 46 comprising:
2 determining if the latch has been released.

1 48. (Original) A method of engaging a fiber optic module
2 to a cage assembly comprising:
3 inserting the fiber optic module into an opening in the
4 cage assembly;
5 pushing the fiber optic module into the cage assembly;
6 and

7 determining if the fiber optic module is fully inserted
8 into the cage assembly by checking whether a push button
9 coupled to the fiber optic module is fully extended out.

1 49. (Original) A method of claim 48 further comprising:
2 pushing the fiber optic module into the cage assembly if
3 the push button is not fully extended out.

1 50. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 10
2 wherein,
3 the push-actuator is a push button.

1 51. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 10
2 wherein,
3 the push-actuator is a kick actuator.

1 52. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 10
2 wherein,
3 the push-actuator is located at a bottom side of the
4 fiber optic module.

1 53. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 10 further
2 comprising:
3 a nose having a nose grip to pull out on the fiber optic
4 module.

1 54. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 10 further
2 comprising:
3 a pull-tab to disengage the fiber optic module from the
4 cage assembly.

1 55. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 23
2 wherein,
3 the push-actuator is a push button.

1 56. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 23
2 wherein,
3 the push-actuator is a kick actuator.

1 57. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 23
2 wherein,
3 the push-actuator is located at a bottom side of the
4 fiber optic module.

1 58. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 23 further
2 comprising:
3 a nose having a nose grip to pull out on the fiber optic
4 module.

1 59. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 26
2 wherein,

3 the push-actuator is a push button.

1 60. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 26

2 wherein,

3 the push-actuator is a kick actuator.

1 61. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 26

2 wherein,

3 the push-actuator is located at a bottom side of the
4 fiber optic module.

1 62. (New) The fiber optic module of claim 26 further

2 comprising:

3 a nose having a nose grip to pull out on the fiber optic
4 module.

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 20, 2003. In the Office Action, (i) the drawings were objected to; (ii) electronic information disclosure statements were objected to; (iii) claims 1-9, 11-22, 24-25, 40-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a); and (v) claims 10, 23, and 26 were objected to.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 10, 23, and 26 have been amended by this response. Claims 27-39 were previously canceled without prejudice. New dependent claims 50-62 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-26 and 40-62 remain at issue in the patent application.

Of the claims remaining at issue, claims 1, 10, 23, 26, 40, 46, and 48 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

I. TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN OFFICE ACTION

On page 2 of the Office Action, there is a typographical error in a date. The Office Action states "The drawings filed with this application on 14 January 2002, are objected to as being informal." [Office Action, page 2].

Applicant understands this to be a typographical error in the Office Action as the drawings were actually filed in the application on 28 June 2001, the filing date of the application.

II. DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to in the Office Action as being informal. [Office Action, Page 2].

Applicant herewith transmits formal drawings of Figures 1-21D.

Applicant believes the submission of formal drawings now makes the objection to the drawings moot and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Applicant has amended the figures to prepare the formal drawings and to correct inconsistent reference number usage.

Applicant has deleted text from Figures 8A, 8D, 8G, 9A, 9G, 9I, 10A, 10D, 10E, and 11C.

Figure 13A was amended to show a proper reference to a magnified view of a portion thereof in Figure 13B.

Figure 18D was amended to correct incorrect reference number usage.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments to the figures.

An annotated version of the amended drawings is attached hereto as Appendix 2 in order to show the changes made herein.

A clean full set of replacement drawings of Figures 1-21D, including the drawing amendments made herein, is attached hereto as Appendix 1.

III. SPECIFICATION

Applicant has amended the specification in the Brief Description of the Drawings section to be consistent with the filed drawings.

In the Brief Description of the Drawings section, a brief description of Figures 4B, 4C, and 9A-9I has been added. The brief description of Figure 4 has been corrected to be a brief description of Figure 4A. The brief description of Figures 10A-10G has also been corrected.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments to the specification.

IV. OBJECTED CLAIMS - ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On Page 7 of the Office Action, Claims 10, 23, and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated in the Office Action to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 10, 23, and 26 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment to claims 10, 23, and 26 makes the objection moot as to these claims and that they are in condition for allowance.

V. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-22, 24-25, and 40-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,901,263 issued to Gaio, et al (Gaio) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,364,709 B1 issued to Jones (Jones). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

On page 5 of the Office Action, Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaio in view of Jones and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,335,869 B1 issued to Branch, et al. (Branch). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

On page 6 of the Office Action, Claims 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaio in view of Jones and in further view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0062719 A1 filed by Friedman, et al. (Friedman). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

"To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)" [MPEP § 2142; 8th Edition, Rev. 1, Feb. 2003, Pg. 2100-124].

Regarding independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Gaio and Jones does not disclose a "push-actuator".

Gaio's bail 102 does not disclose a "push-actuator". Gaio's "bail 102 is rotatable about an axis passing through hinge 108 and is kept in place by inclined plain 106 and guide track 110. Bail 102 rotates about hinge 108 between a locked and unlocked position." [Gaio, Col. 3, lines 35-38]. Gaio's bail 102 is not disclosed as being pushed-in to release a fiber optic module.

The Office Action alleges that "the latch disclosed by Gaio et al can be engaged and disengaged by pushing the latch from the lock or the unlock position." [Office Action, page 2]. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Gaio discloses Gaio's "Bail 102 rotat[ing] about hinge 108 between a locked and unlocked position." [Gaio, Col. 3, lines 37-38].

Neither Gaio nor Jones disclose "a push-actuator to release the fiber optic module from a cage assembly" as recited in claim 1. [Claim 1, lines 2-3].

Regarding independent claim 40, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Gaio and Jones does not disclose a "push-button" that can be depressed.

Gaio's bail 102 does not disclose a "push-button". Gaio's "bail 102 is rotatable about an axis passing through hinge 108 and is kept in place by inclined plain 106 and guide track 110. Bail 102 rotates about hinge 108 between a locked and unlocked position." [Gaio, Col. 3, lines 35-38].

Neither Gaio nor Jones disclose "means for disengaging the fiber optic module from a cage assembly by depressing a push button" as recited in claim 40. [Claim 40, lines 4-5].

Regarding independent claim 46, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Gaio and Jones does not disclose a "push-button" that can be pushed.

Gaio's bail 102 does not disclose a "push-button". Gaio's "bail 102 is rotatable about an axis passing through hinge 108 and is kept in place by inclined plain 106 and guide track 110. Bail 102 rotates about hinge 108 between a locked and unlocked position." [Gaio, Col. 3, lines 35-38].

Neither Gaio nor Jones disclose "pushing a push-button to release a latch" as recited in claim 46. [Claim 46, line 3].

Additionally, Branch and Gaio can not be successfully combined without significant modifications. It is not a proper ground of rejection when the "suggested combination of references would require a substantial reconstruction and redesign of the elements." [MPEP § 2143.01, Original 8th Edition, Aug. 2001, Pg. 2100-124 and *In re Ratti*, 270 F2d. 810, 123 USPQ 349 (C.C.P.A. 1959)]. Furthermore, the modifications to Branch and Gaio to be successfully combined would render them unsatisfactory for their intended purposes. "If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification." [MPEP § 2143.01, Original 8th Edition, Aug. 2001, Pg. 2100-124 and *In re Gordon*, 733 F2d. 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)]. Moreover, the motivations for combining Branch and Gaio and making modifications thereto as stated by the Office Action are not convincing. "[T]he examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references." [MPEP § 706.2(j), Original 8th

Edition, Aug. 2001, Pg. 700-31; citing *Ex Parte Clapp*, 227 USPQ 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App & Inter. 1985)].

Thus for the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 40, and 46 are not made obvious by the combination of Gaio and Jones.

Additionally regarding dependent claim 5, the Office Action alleges that Branch discloses "grooves (40) in the cage assembly for the module to slide into". [Office Action page 5]. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Branch discloses "protrusions 40 [to] form positioning or stop surfaces 44 which may be engaged by a circuit board 18." [Branch, col. 6, lines 1-2]. Moreover, Branch's protrusions 40 illustrated in Branch's Figure 2 are not in any cage assembly.

Thus, the combination of Gaio, Jones, and Branch does not disclose "the push-actuator include[ing] one or more grooves to slideably engage the fiber optic module" as recited in claim 5. [Claim 5, lines 3-4].

Moreover, the motivation for combining Branch with Gaio and Jones as stated by the Office Action is not convincing. "[T]he examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references." [MPEP § 706.2(j), Original 8th Edition, Aug. 2001, Pg. 700-31; citing *Ex Parte Clapp*, 227 USPQ 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App & Inter. 1985)].

The Office Action makes further statements that because applicant has claimed the invention in different types or more than one location that it's a non-critical feature and therefor it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Additionally, Rejected claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-25 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1.

Rejected claims 41-45 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 40.

Rejected claim 47 depends directly from independent claim 46.

Applicant believes it has placed independent claims 1, 40, and 46 in condition for allowance such that dependent claims 2-9, 11-22, 24-25; 41-45; and 47 depending respectively therefrom with further limitations are also in condition for allowance.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 1-9, 11-22, 24-25, and 40-47 based on the combination of Gaio and Jones; and Gaio, Jones, and Branch.

Regarding independent claim 48, neither Gaio nor Jones disclose a push-button as previously discussed. Thus, neither Gaio nor Jones disclose "determining if the fiber optic module is fully inserted into the cage assembly by checking whether a push button coupled to the fiber optic module is fully extended out" as recited in claim 48. [Claim 48, lines 7-9].

The Office Action alleges that "the concept of a push button extending fully out to ensure the module is fully inserted is a commonly known method". [Office Action, page 6]. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Office Action relies on Friedman to allege disclosure of a "button protrudes outward when the first member has been connected to the second member". [Office Action, page 6].

Applicant respectfully submits that Friedman does not provide a determination "if the fiber optic module is fully inserted into

the cage assembly by checking whether a push button coupled to the fiber optic module is fully extended out" as recited in Claim 48. [Claim 48, lines 7-9].

Friedman's button 104 requires alignment and engagement with a circular hole or aperture 106 for making a connection before protruding through. If Friedman's button 104 is misaligned, it will not protrude through. That is, Friedman's handle 78 of the second member 24 can be fully inserted within Friedman's hollow handle 24 but misaligned, and not provide such an indication.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Friedman is not an analogous prior art reference.

"In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection of an applicant's invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned." [MPEP 2141.01(a) citing *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d, 1443, 1446, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992)].

Applicant respectfully submits that Friedman is not a reference in the same field of applicant's invention. Friedman's invention is a wrench which is not related to a "method of engaging a fiber optic module to a cage assembly." [Claim 48, lines 1-2]. Friedman's invention is classified in US class/subclass of 81/125.1 and not that of Applicant's invention or those of Gaio's or Jones invention with which Friedman is being combined.

Applicant respectfully submits that Friedman is not reasonably pertinent to "determining if the fiber optic module is fully inserted into the cage assembly." [Claim 48, lines 7-8]. Friedman does not disclose a fiber optic module or a cage assembly into which a fiber optic module may be inserted. An inventor

would not have logically looked to how members of a wrench connect together in determining if a fiber optic module is fully inserted into a cage assembly.

Applicant respectfully submits that Friedman is a non-analogous reference.

Moreover, the motivation for combining Friedman with Gaio and Jones as stated by the Office Action is not clear nor convincing. "[T]he examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references." [MPEP § 706.2(j), Original 8th Edition, Aug. 2001, Pg. 700-31; citing *Ex Parte Clapp*, 227 USPQ 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App & Inter. 1985)].

The assertion "to ensure the module is fully inserted" in the Office Action seems to be generated from Applicant's claimed invention and not from the prior art references themselves. "The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)" [MPEP § 2142; 8th Edition, Rev. 1, Feb. 2003, Pg. 2100-124].

Claim 49 is dependent from independent claim 48. Applicant believes it has placed independent claim 48 in condition for allowance such that dependent claim 49 depending therefrom with a further limitation is also in condition for allowance.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of independent claim 48 and dependent claim 49 based on the combination of Gaio, Jones, and Friedman.

VI. NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new dependent claims 50-62.

New dependent claims 50-54 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 10.

New dependent claims 55-58 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 23.

New dependent claims 59-62 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 26.

Applicant has amended claims 10, 23, and 26 into independent form to overcome a claim objection and believes they are now in condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicant believes that with independent claims 10, 23, and 26 in condition for allowance, dependent claims 50-54, 55-58, and 59-62 depending respectively therefrom with further limitations are also in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new dependent claims 50-62 are also in condition for allowance.

VII. ELECTRONIC INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

The Office Action objected to information disclosure statements filed on 09/19/2002 (paper no. 8); 09/20/2002 (paper no. 9); and 09/23/2003 (paper no. 10); and 09/24/2002 (paper no. 11), electronically submitted information disclosure statements, for failing to comply with 376 CFR 1.98(a)(2) which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. Applicant respectfully traverses.

"Information disclosure statements (IDS) may be electronically submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) via the Office's Electronic Filing System (EFS). When making such an EFS submission of an IDS, *paper copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications* cited in the IDS *will no longer have to be supplied by applicants.*" [USPTO Office Gazette Notice, 17 September 2002, "Electronic Submission of Information Disclosure Statements", Summary].

Cited U.S. Patent documents in electronically submitted information disclosure statements are supposed to be made readily available to Examiners by the USPTO. This is part of the USPTO's goal of reducing the amount of paper handling. Of course, Foreign references and other types of publications cited in an Information Disclosure Statement require submission of a hard copy by mail.

Electronic Information Disclosure Statement ("EIDS") forms generated by the electronic filing system of the USPTO include a note above the cited US Patent Documents that states, "Applicant is not required to submit a paper copy of cited US Patent Documents". [For Example, see page 2 of Appendix 3 attached hereto].

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the electronic information disclosure statements filed on 09/19/2002 (paper no. 8); 09/20/2002 (paper no. 9); and 09/23/2003 (paper no. 10); and 09/24/2002 (paper no. 11), and consideration of the references cited therein.

In addition to the electronic information disclosure statements listed above, Applicant filed electronic information

disclosure statements on 05/07/2003, and 05/15/2003 which may have not yet been considered by the Examiner.

The EIDS filed on 05/07/2003, prior to the mailing of the Office Action on 06/20/2003, is attached hereto as Appendix 3.

The EIDS filed on 05/15/2003, prior to the mailing of the Office Action on 06/20/2003, is attached hereto as Appendix 4.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the cited references in the electronic information disclosure statements filed electronically on 05/07/2003 and 05/15/2003. Please return a copy of the initialed Form 1449 equivalent for Applicants records in each case.

CONCLUSION

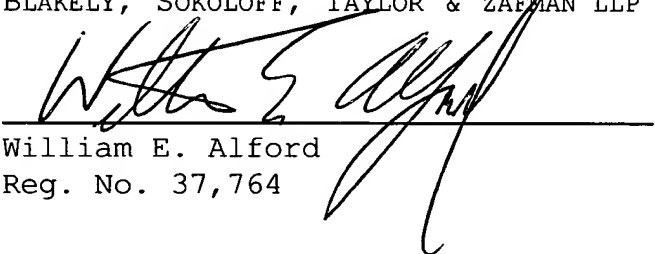
In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: October 20, 2003

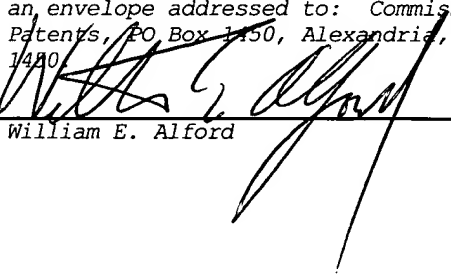


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



William E. Alford

10/20/03

Date

Appl. No. 09/896,695
Amdt. Dated **10/20/2003**
Reply to Office Action of 06/20/2003



Appendix 1

FORMAL DRAWING SHEETS
FIGURES
1-21D



1/22

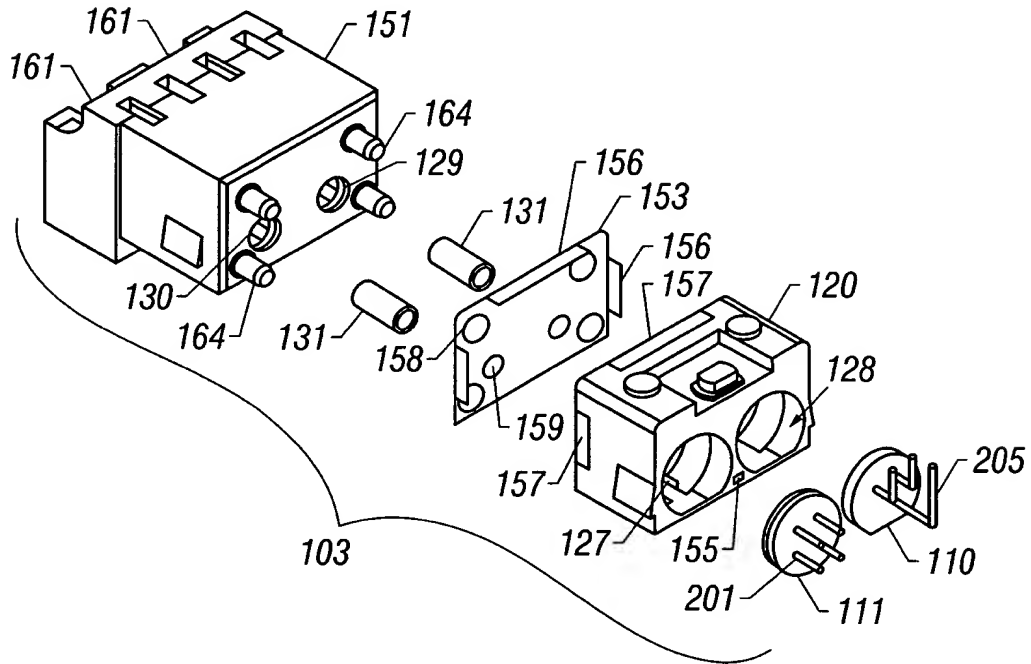


FIG. 1

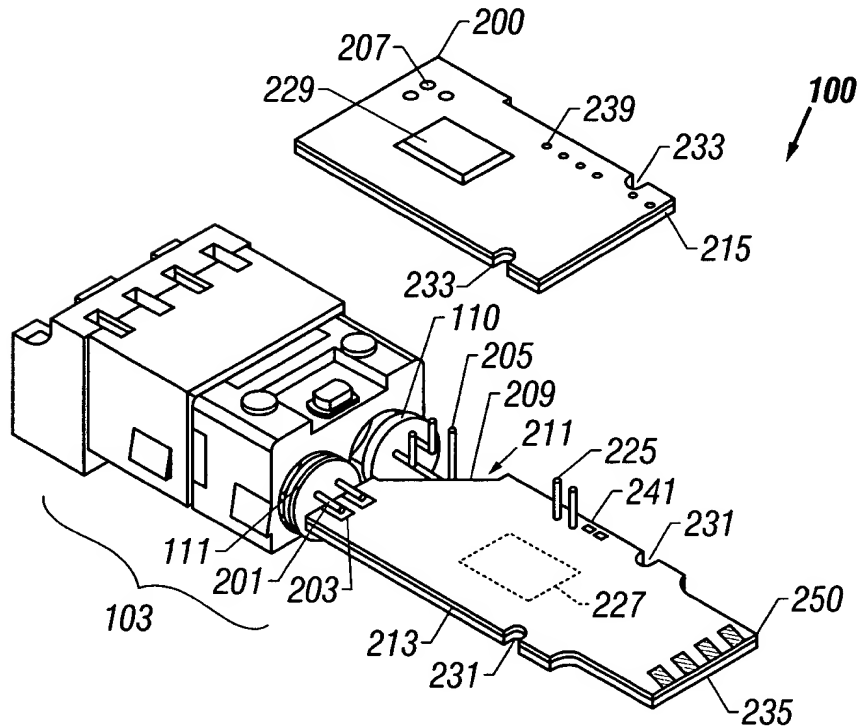


FIG. 2



2/22

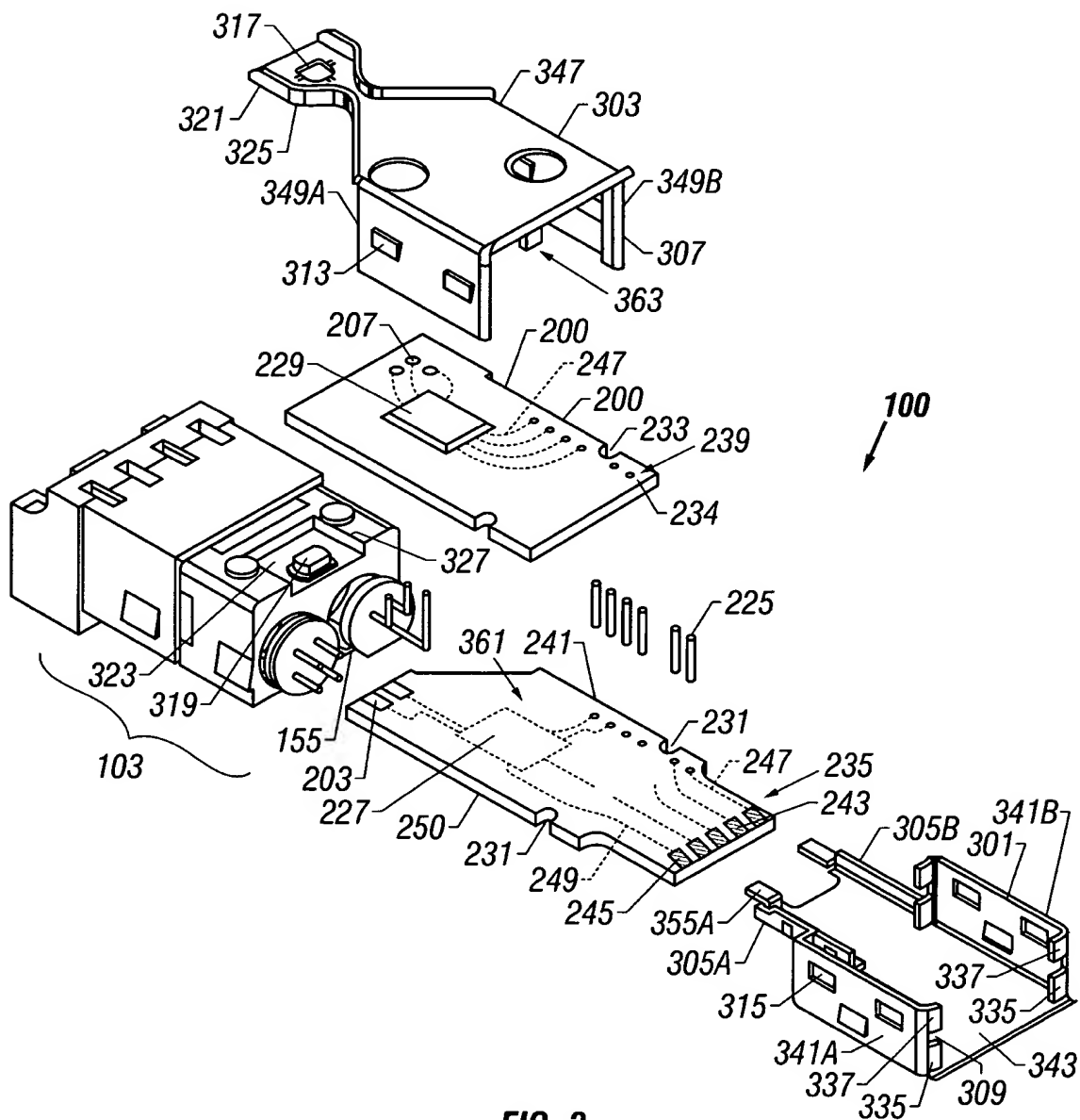


FIG. 3



3/22

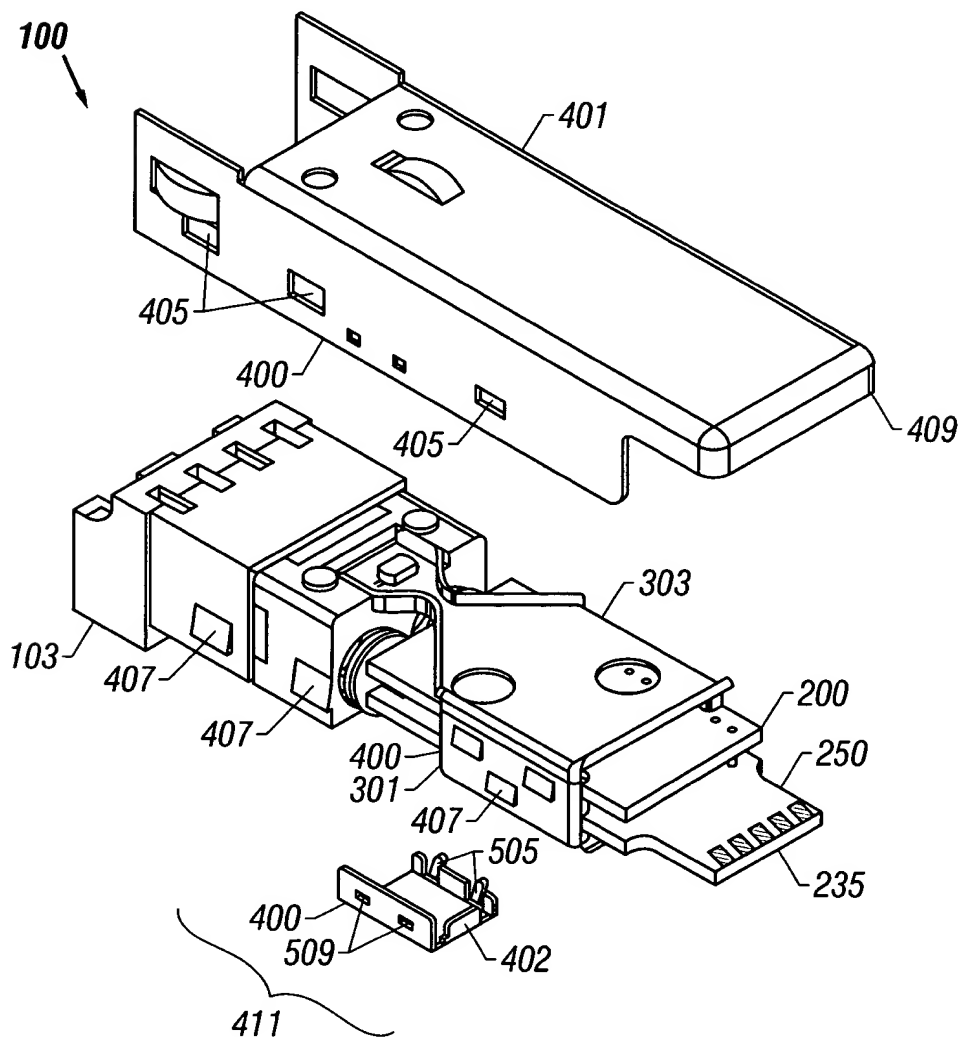


FIG. 4A

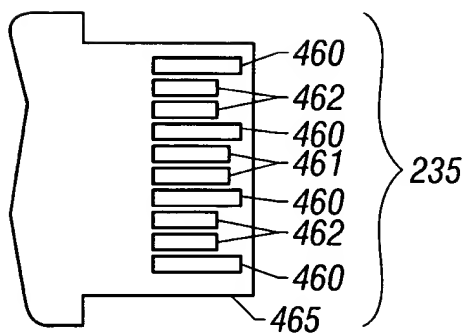


FIG. 4B

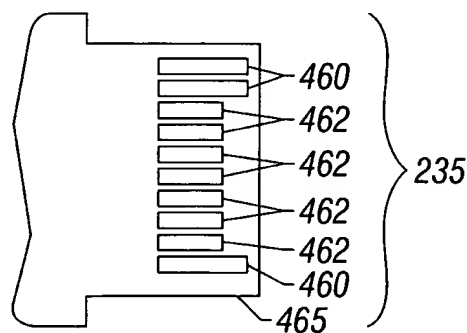


FIG. 4C



4/22

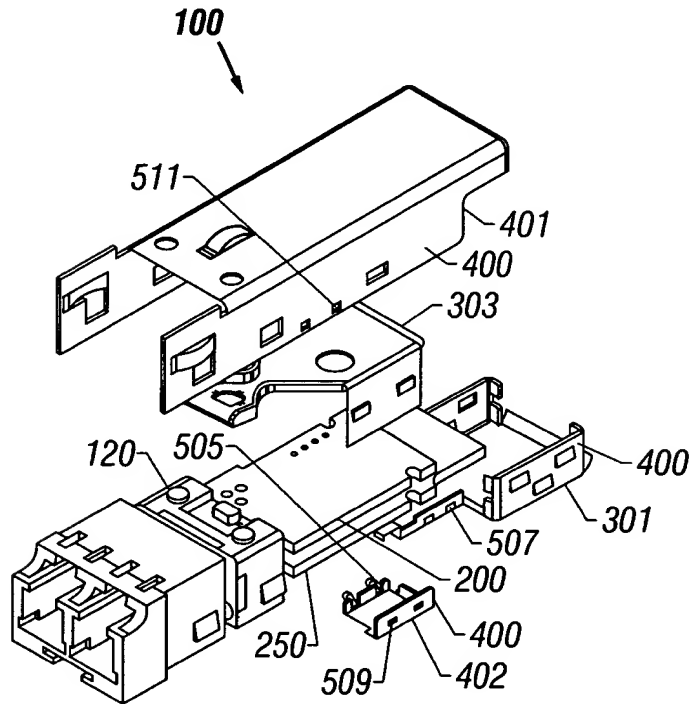


FIG. 5

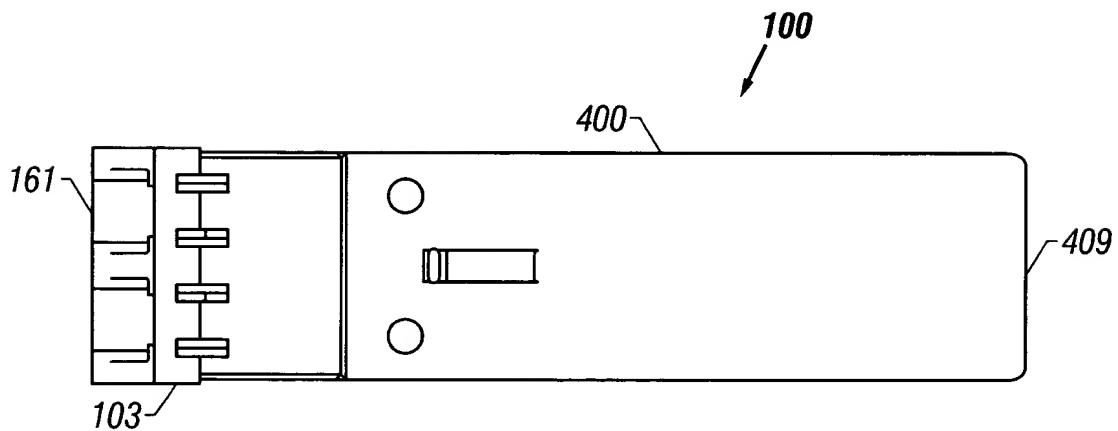


FIG. 6A



5/22

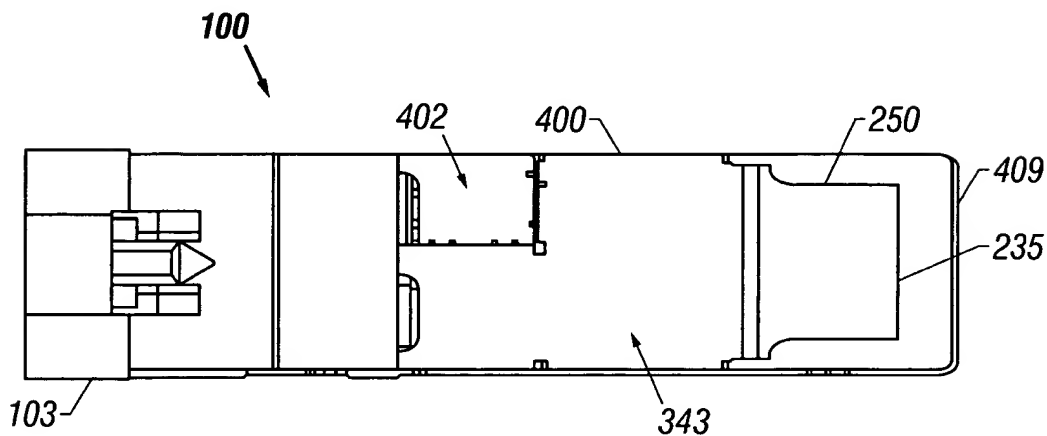


FIG. 6B

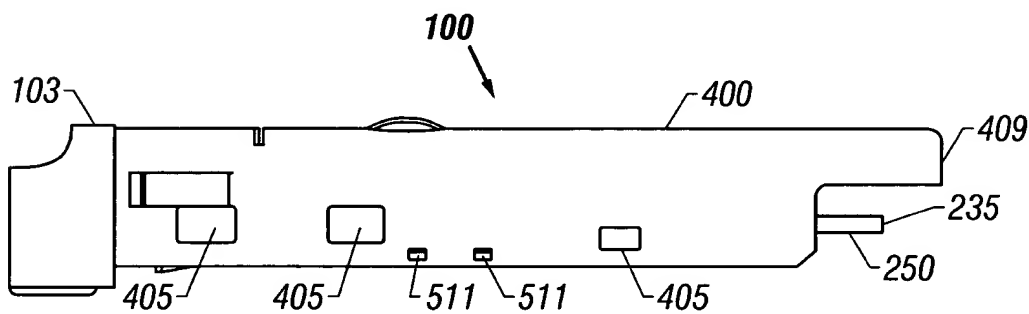


FIG. 6C

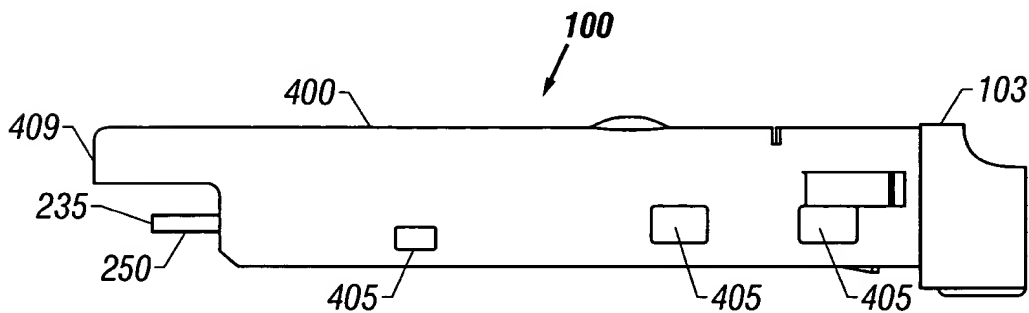


FIG. 6D



6/22

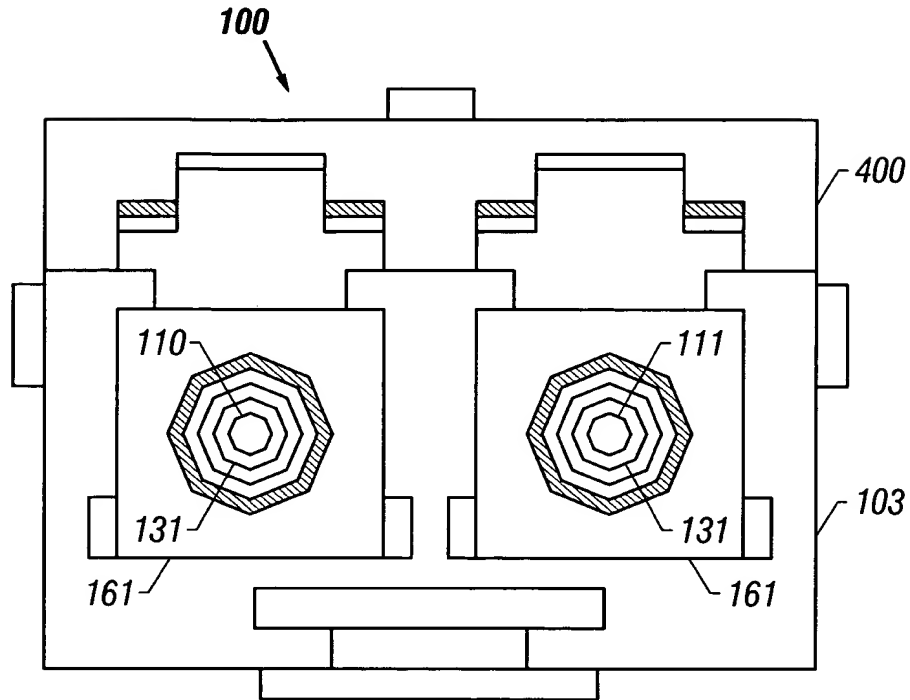


FIG. 6E

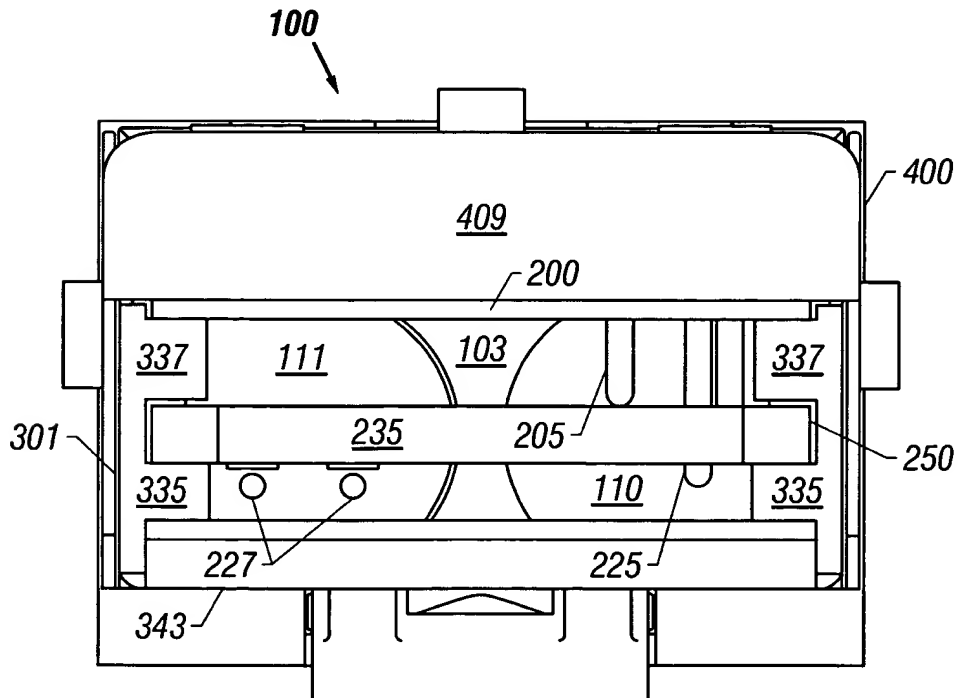
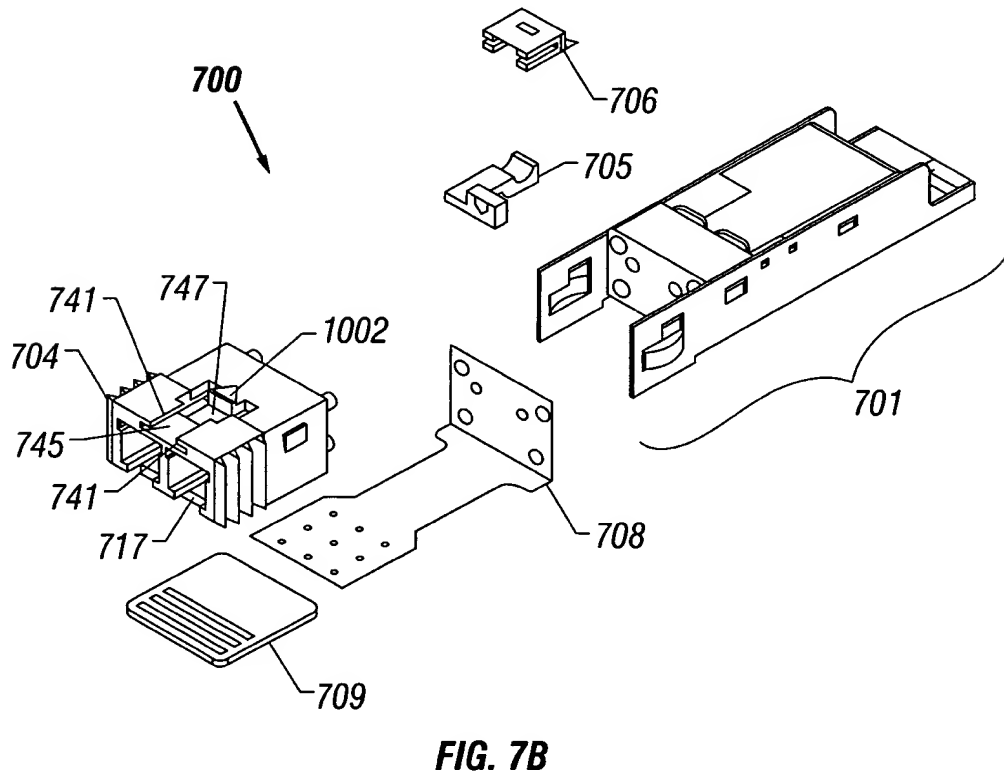
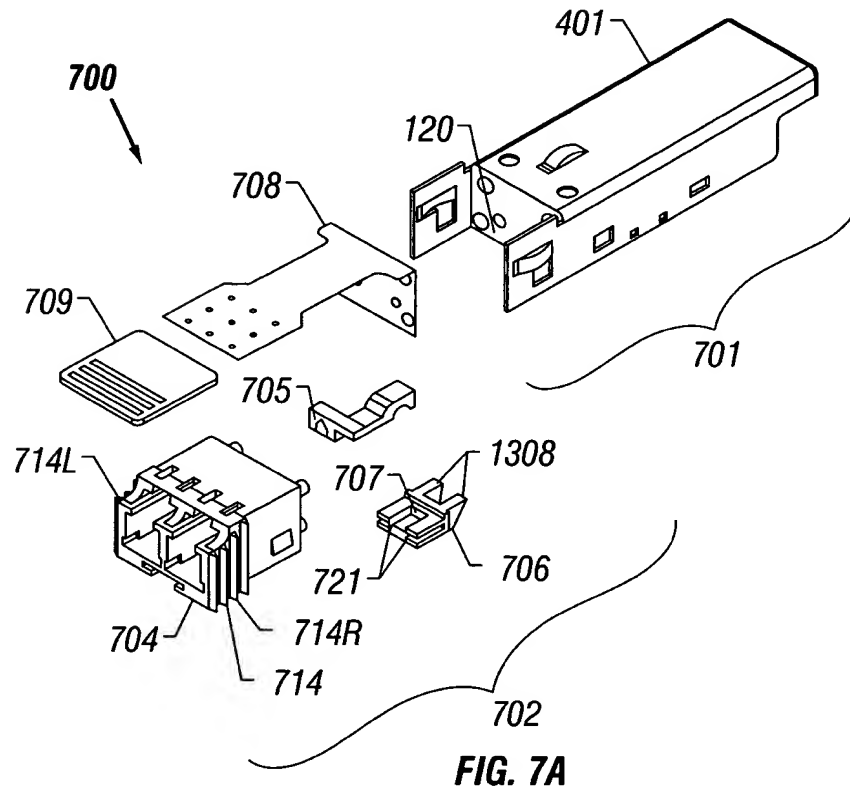


FIG. 6F



7/22





8/22

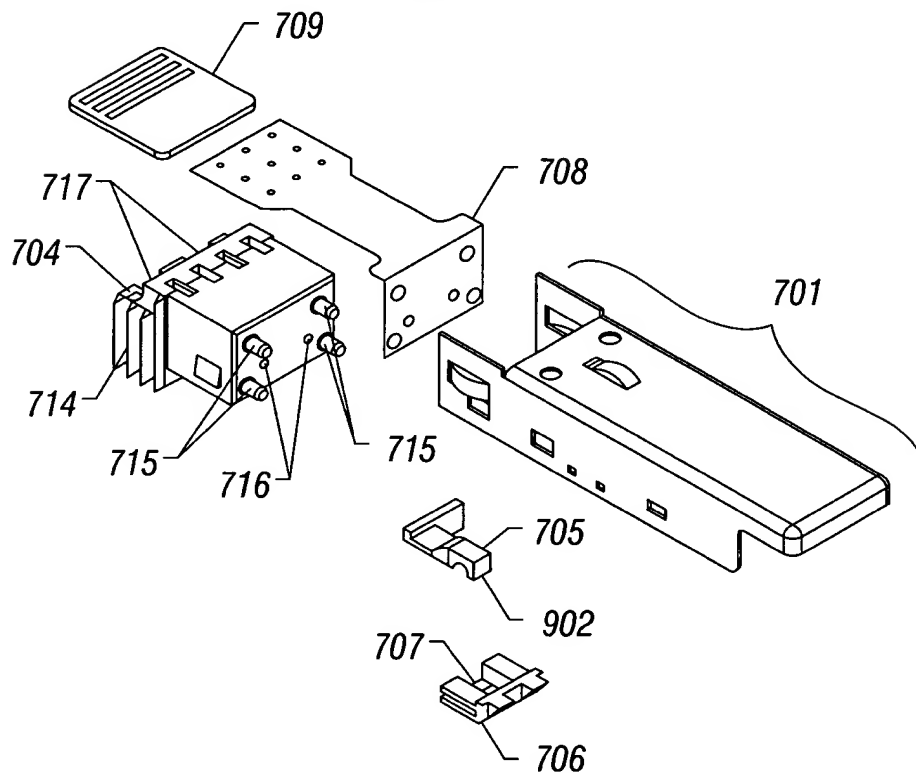


FIG. 7C

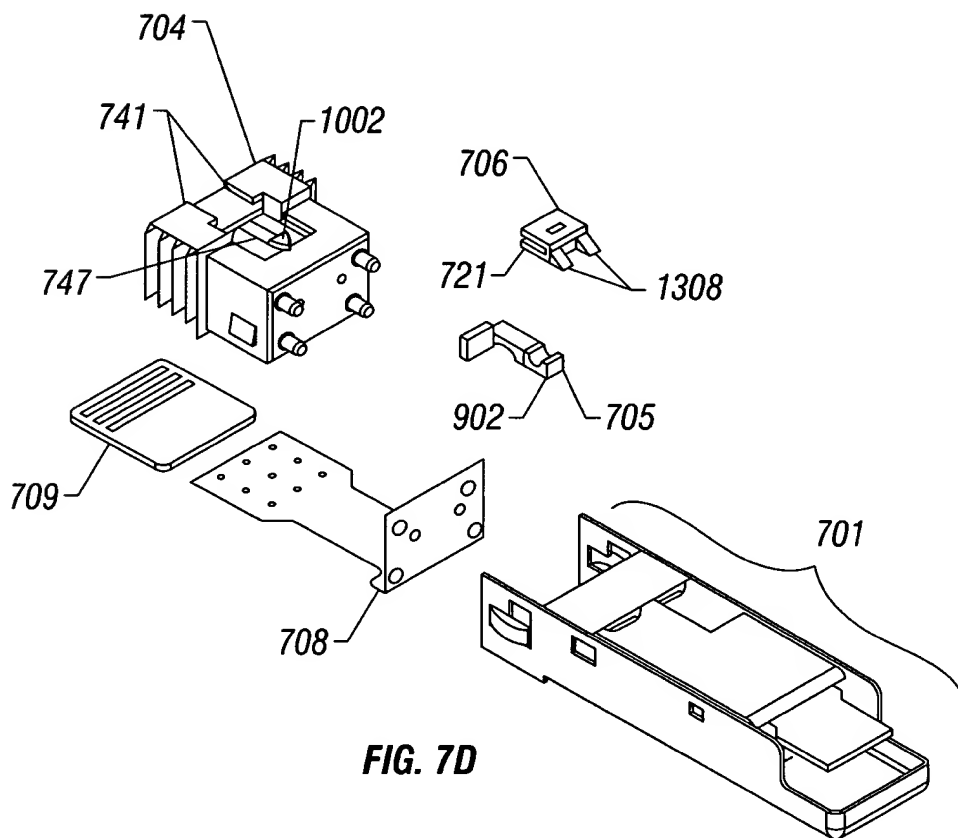


FIG. 7D



9/22

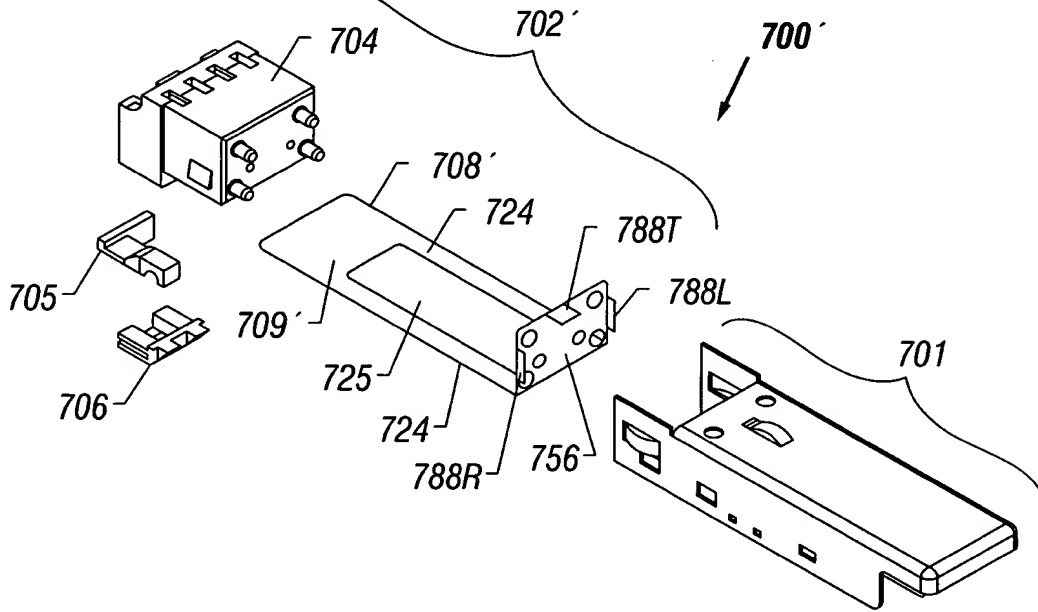


FIG. 7E

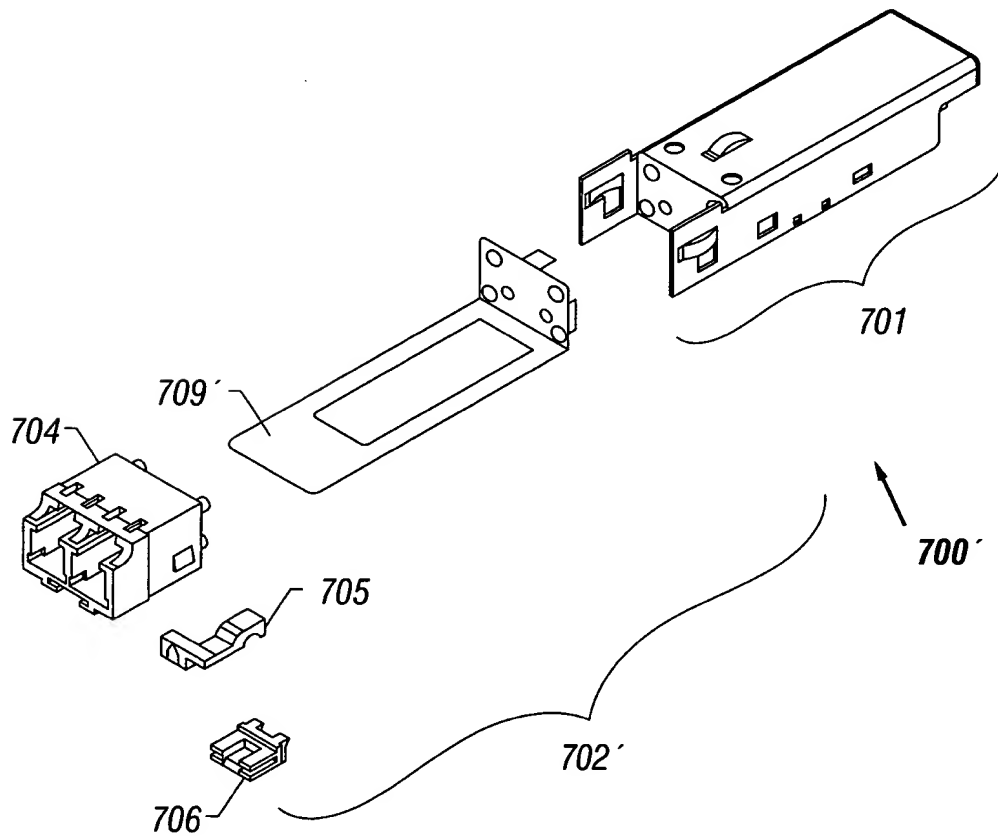


FIG. 7F



10/22

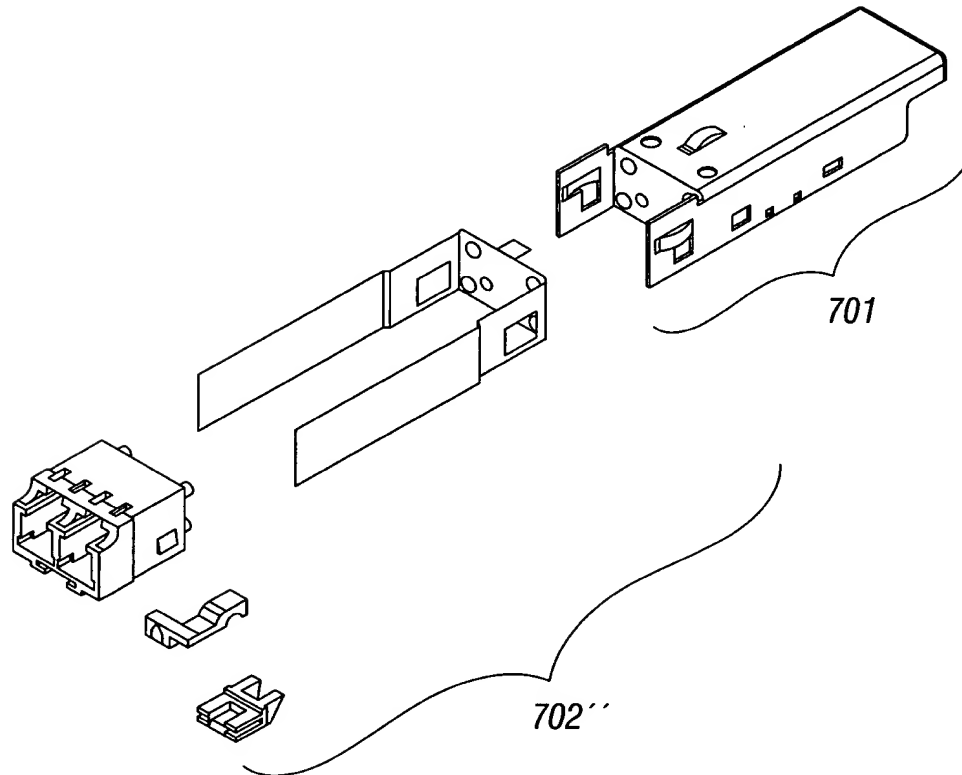


FIG. 7G

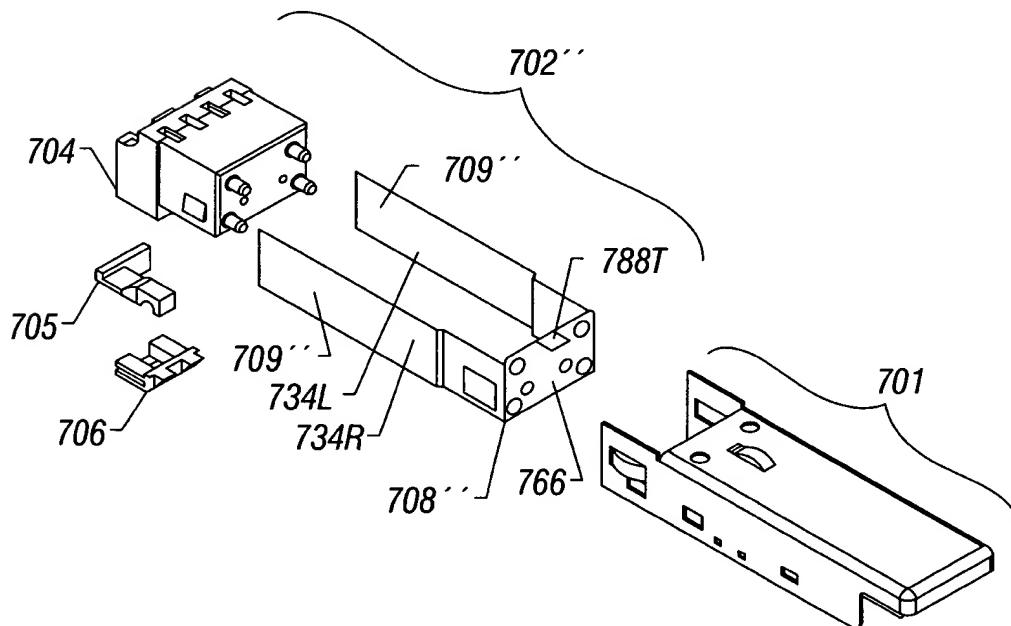


FIG. 7H



11/22

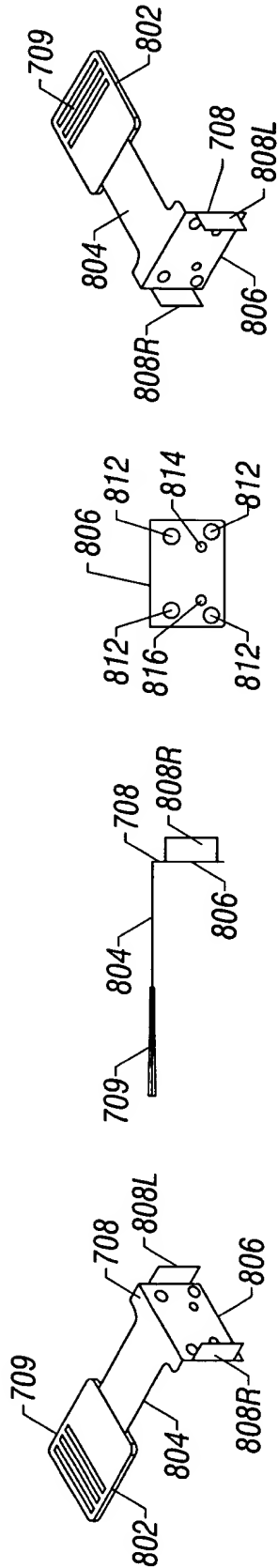


FIG. 8A

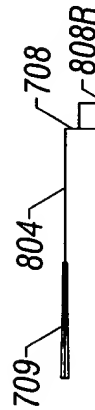


FIG. 8B

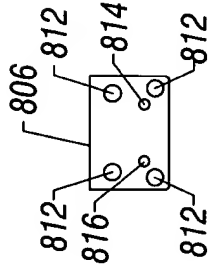


FIG. 8C

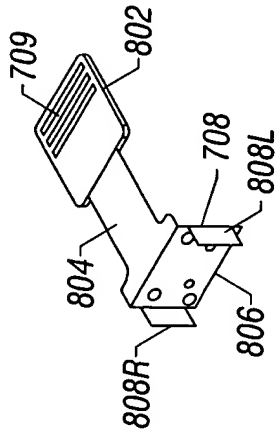


FIG. 8D

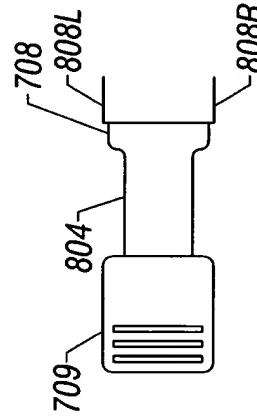


FIG. 8E

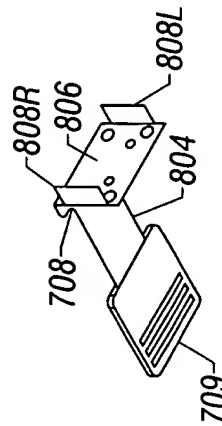


FIG. 8F

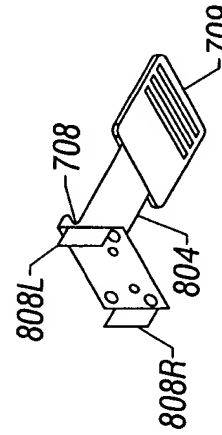
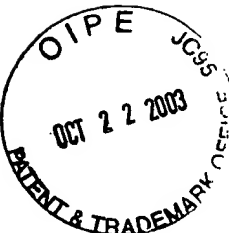
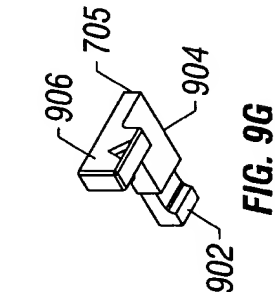
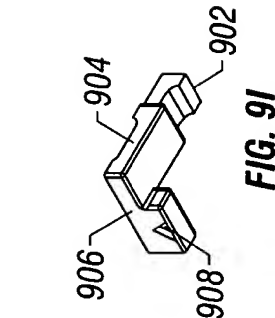
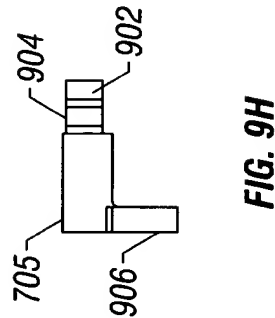
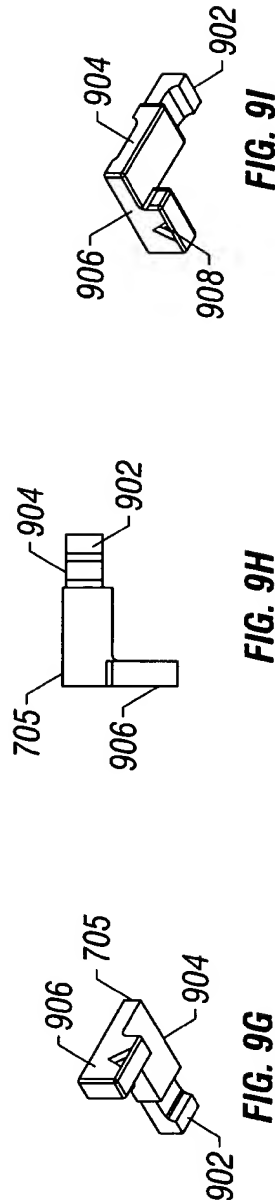
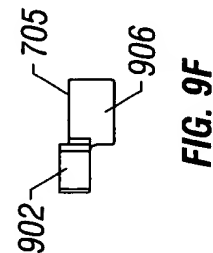
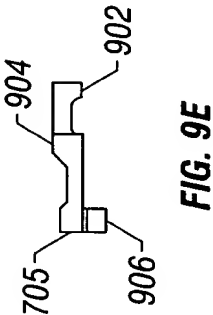
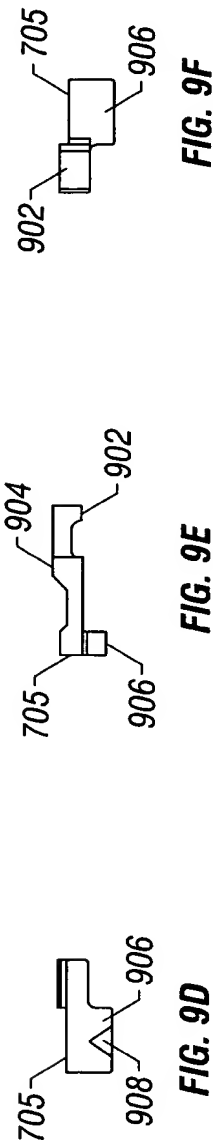
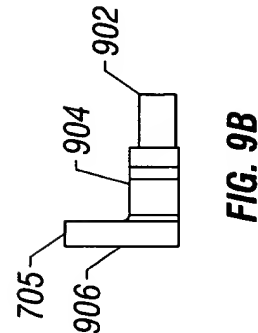
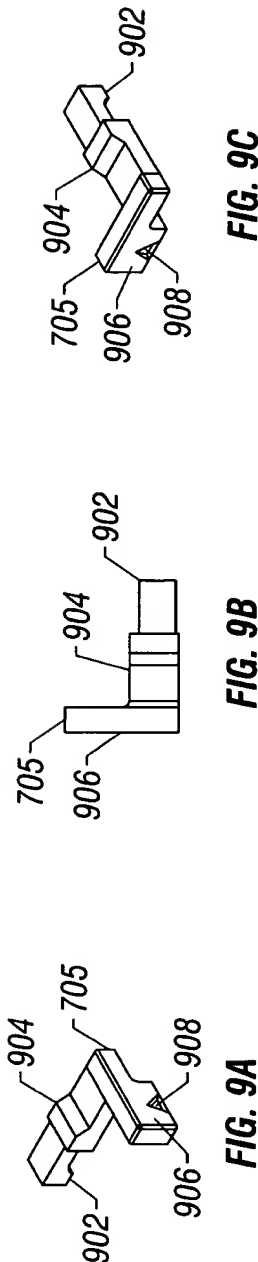


FIG. 8G



12/22



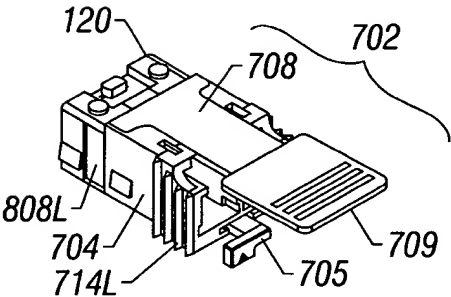


FIG. 10A

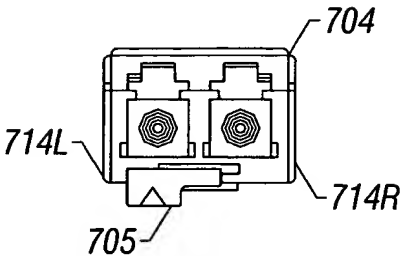


FIG. 10B

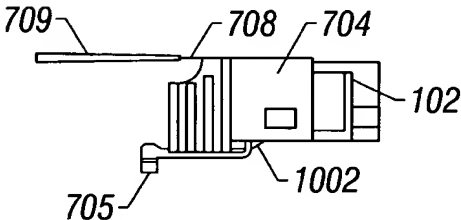


FIG. 10C

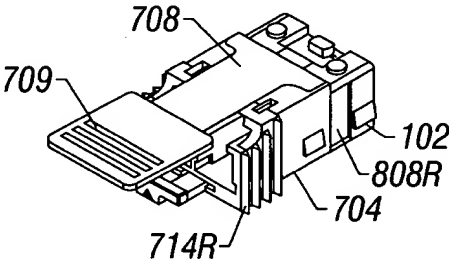


FIG. 10D

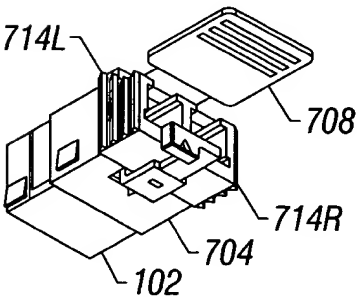


FIG. 10E

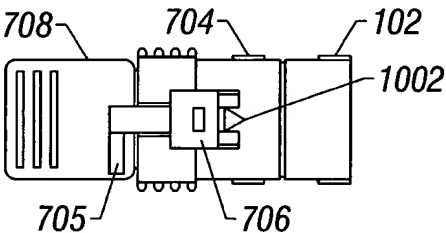


FIG. 10F

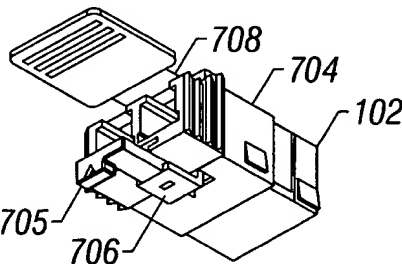


FIG. 10G

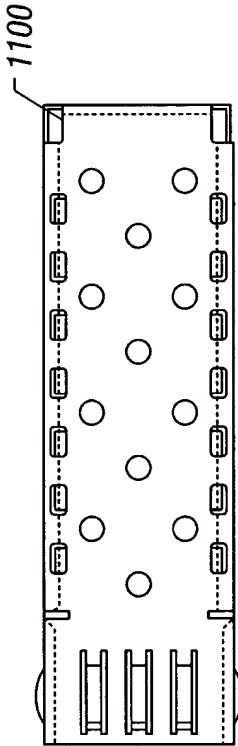


FIG. 11A

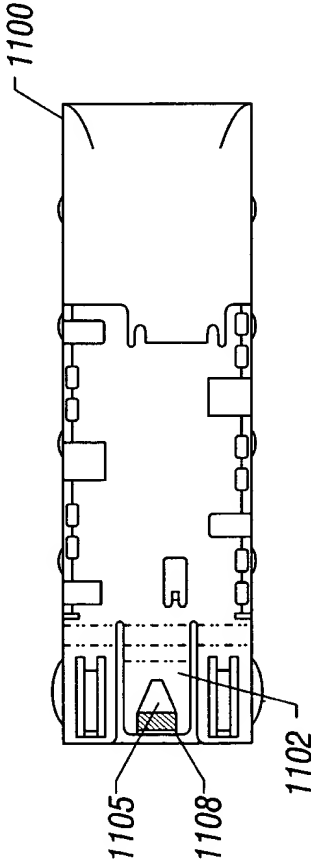


FIG. 11B

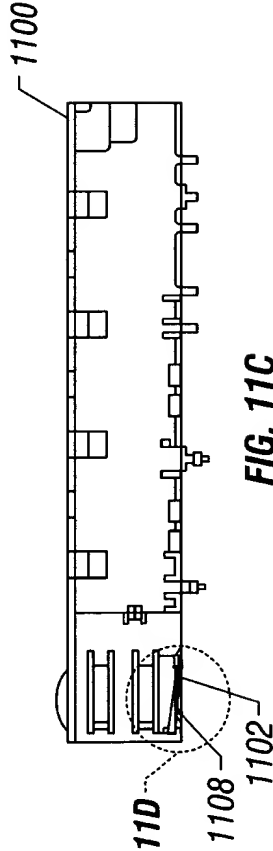


FIG. 11C

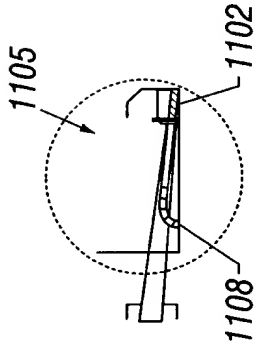


FIG. 11D

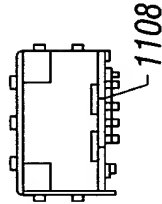
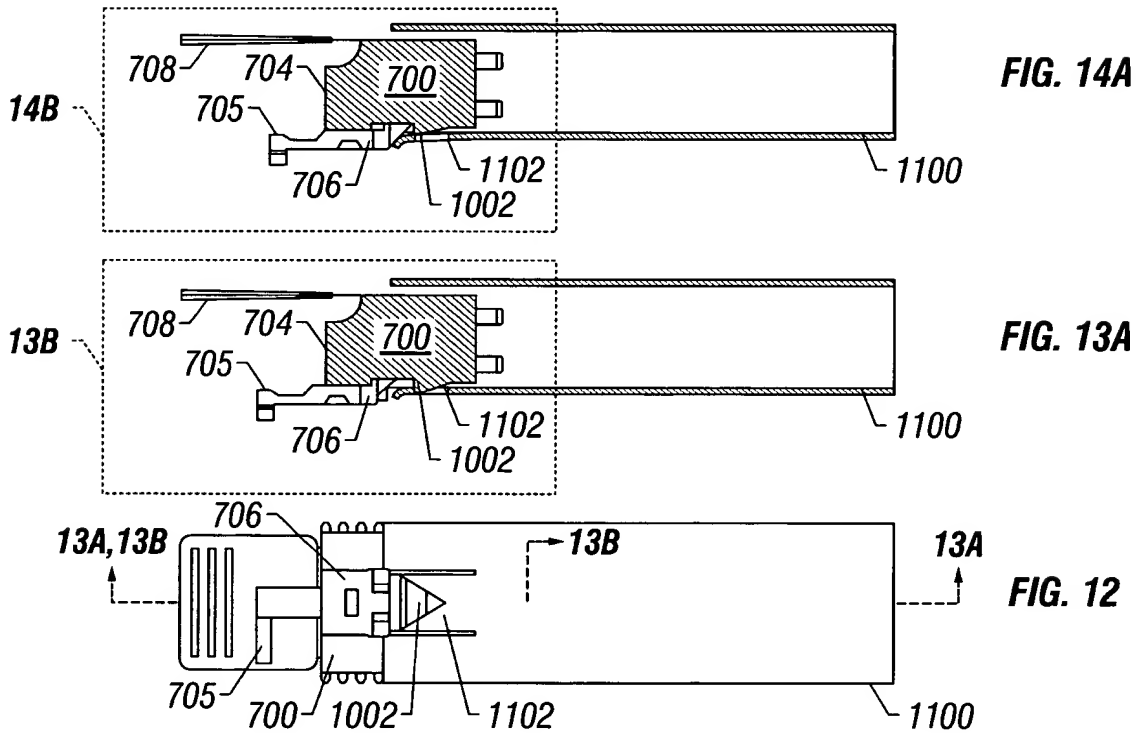


FIG. 11E



15/22





16/22

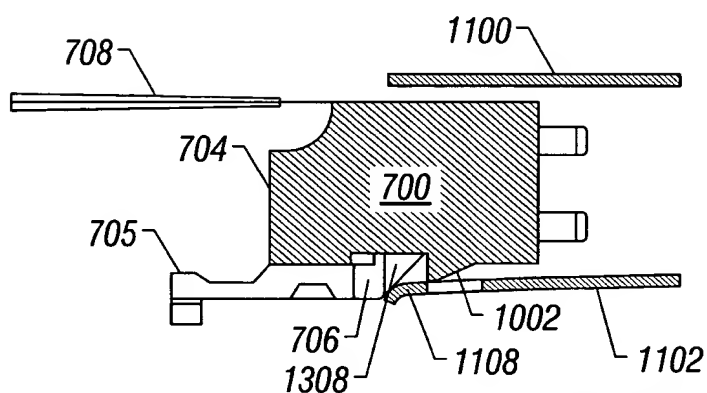


FIG. 14B

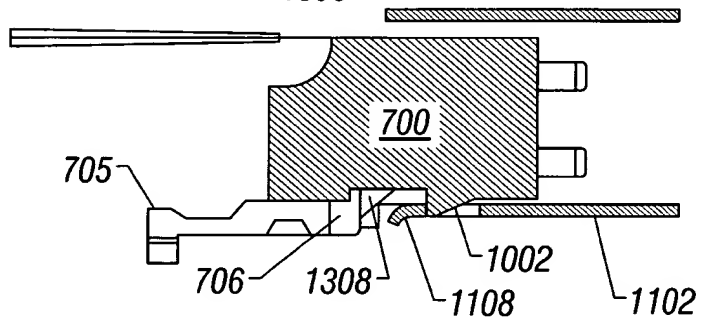


FIG. 13B



17/22

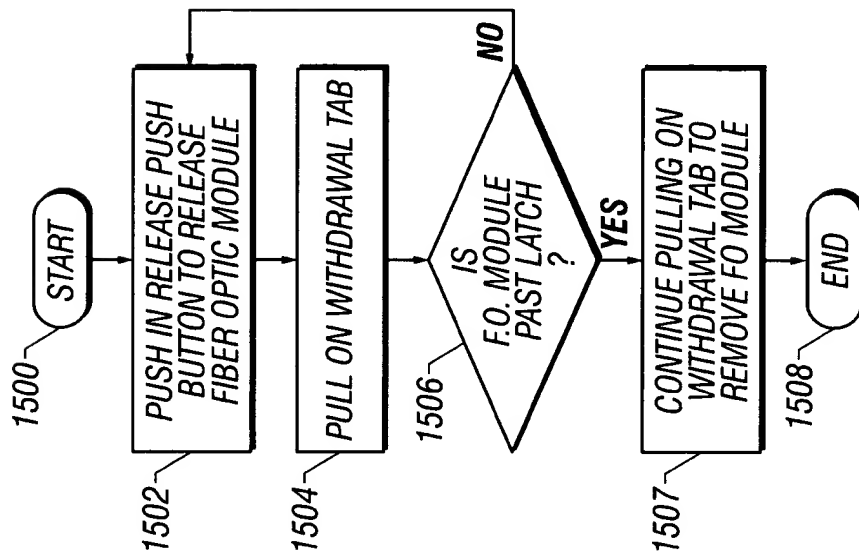


FIG. 15

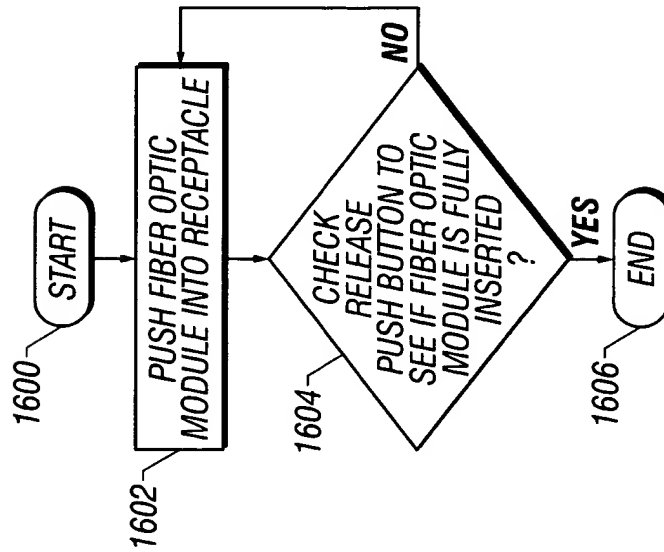


FIG. 16



18/22

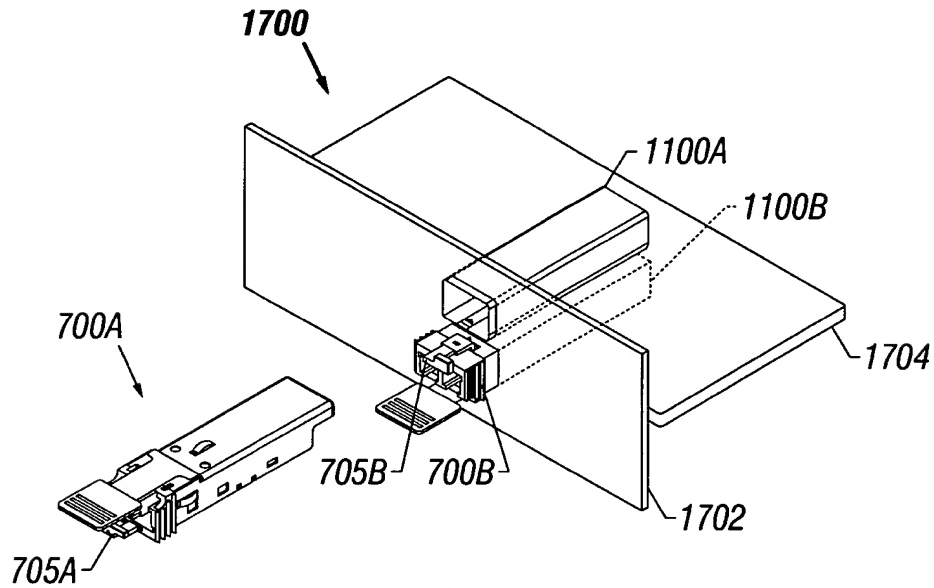


FIG. 17A

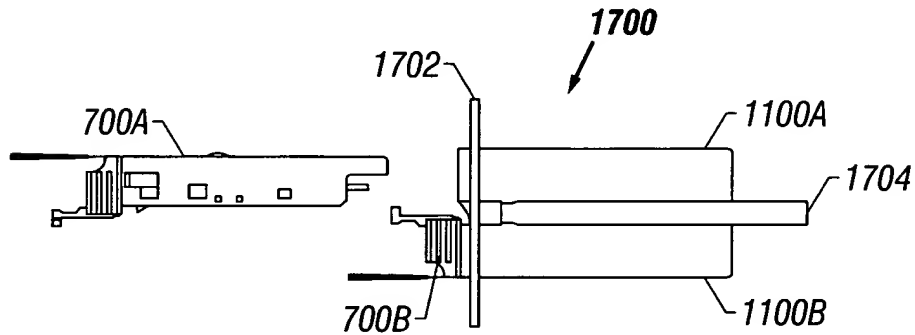


FIG. 17B

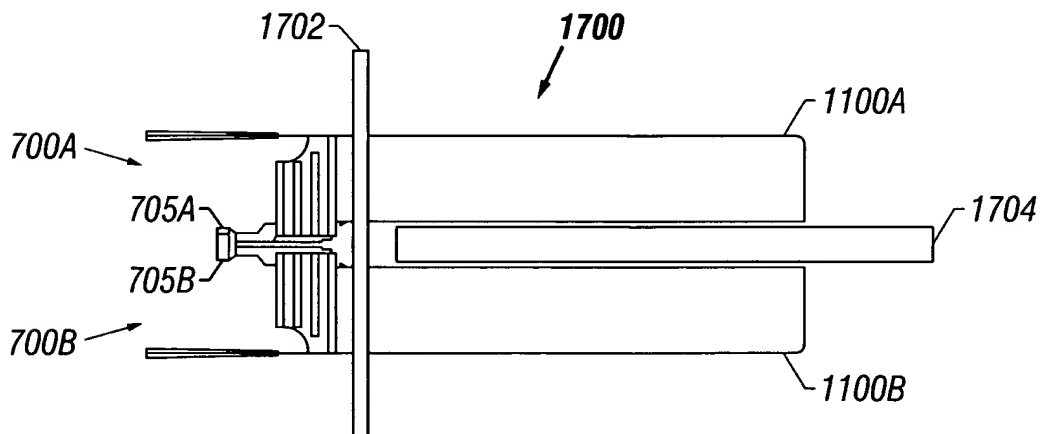
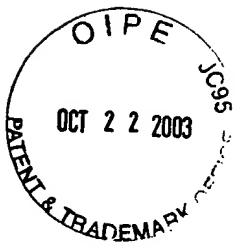


FIG. 17C



19/22

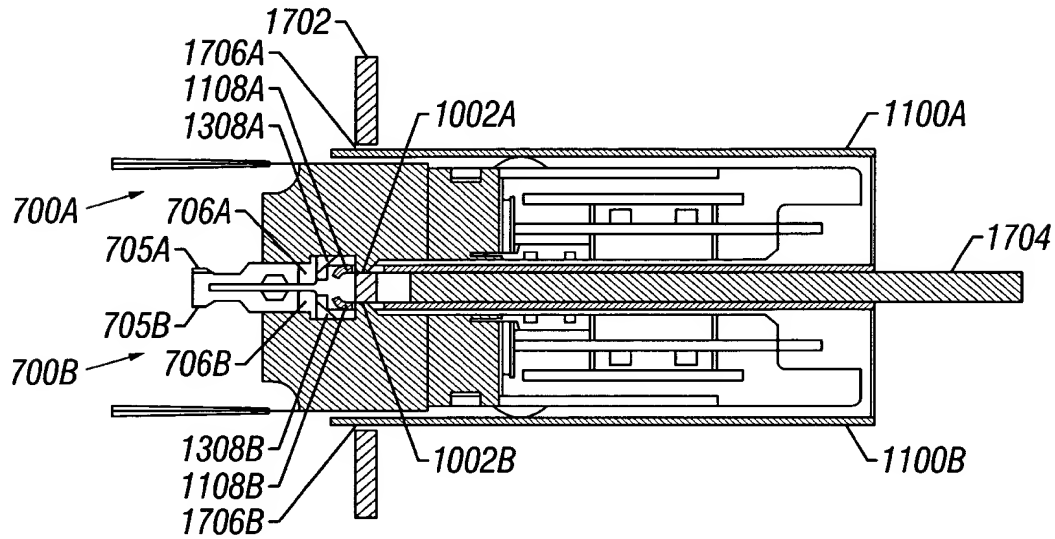


FIG. 17D

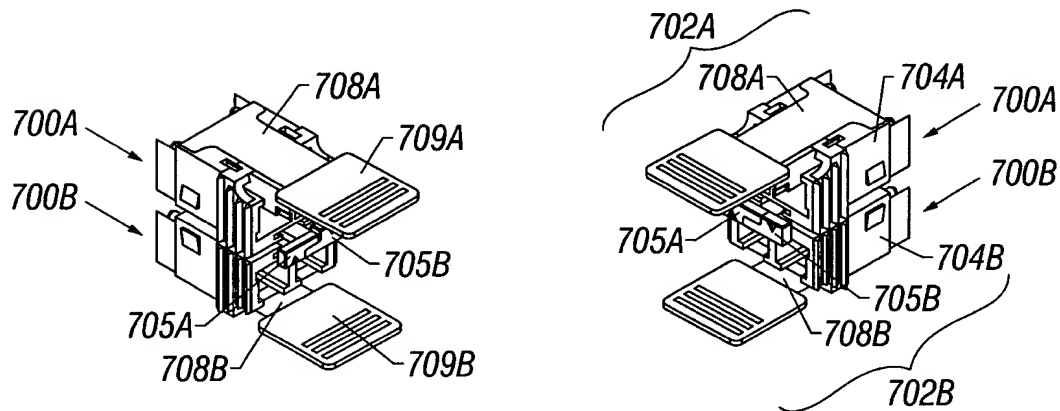


FIG. 18A

FIG. 18B



20/22

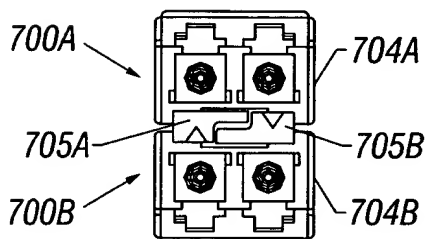


FIG. 18C

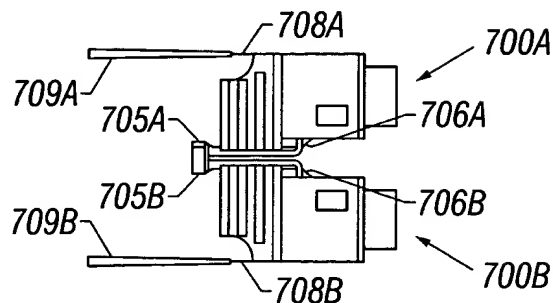


FIG. 18D

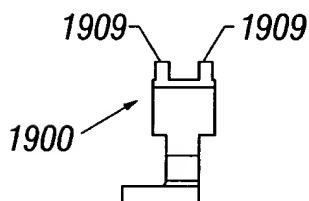


FIG. 19A

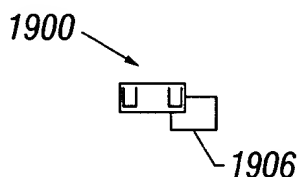


FIG. 19B

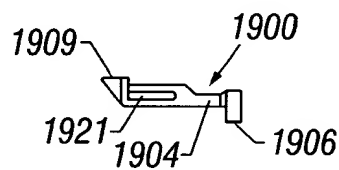


FIG. 19C

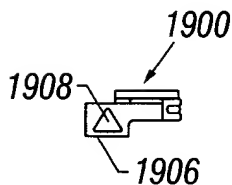


FIG. 19D

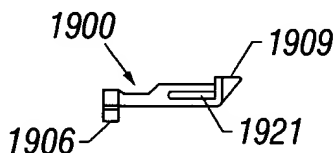


FIG. 19E

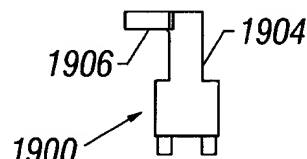


FIG. 19F



21/22

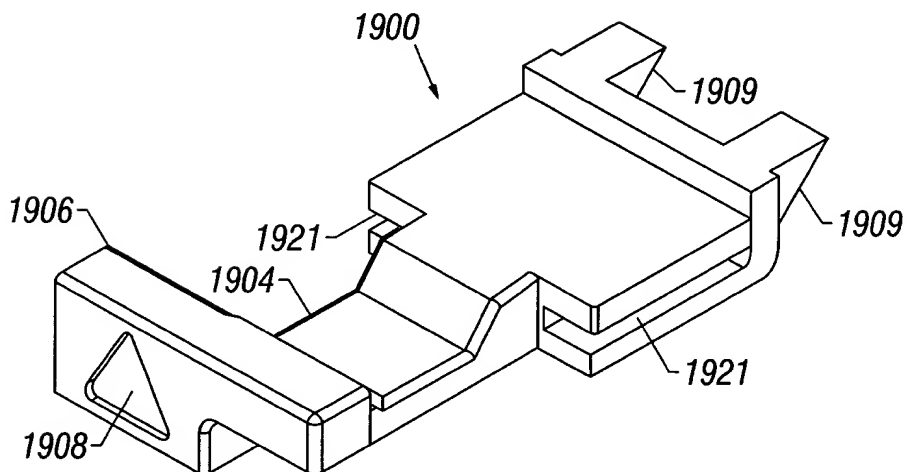


FIG. 20A

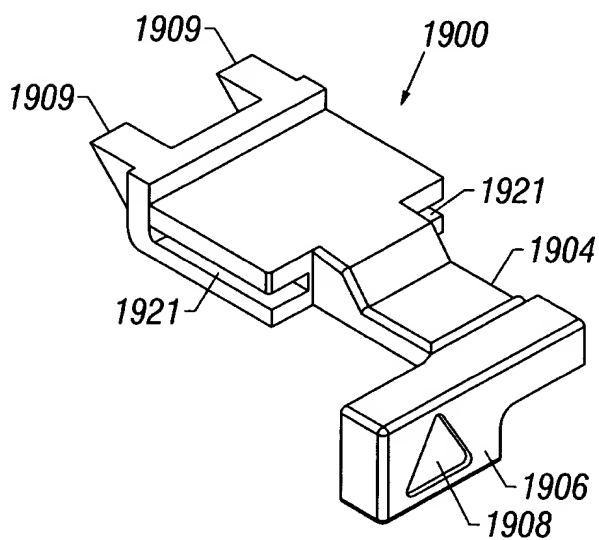


FIG. 20B



22/22

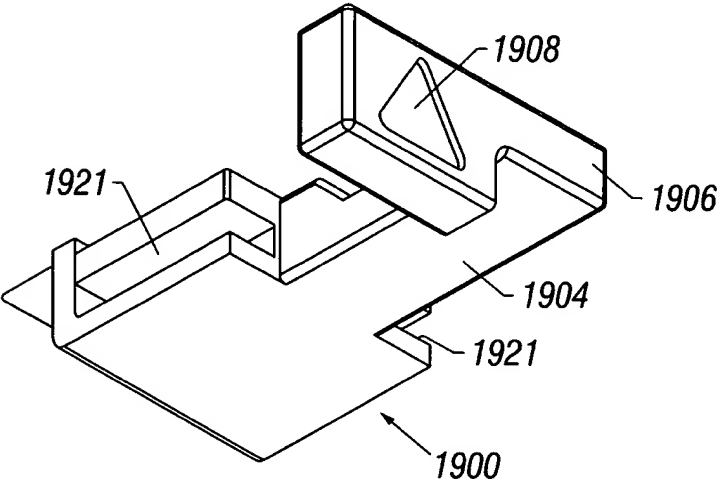


FIG. 20C

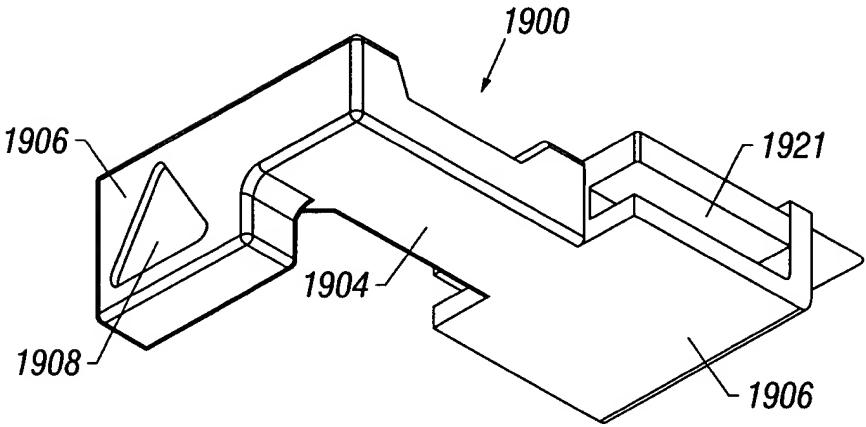


FIG. 20D

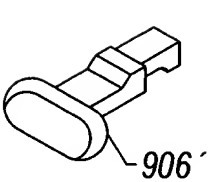


FIG. 21A

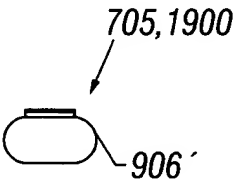


FIG. 21B

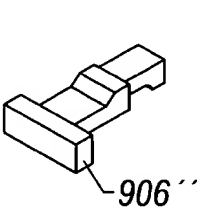


FIG. 21C

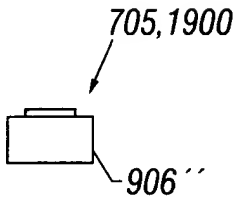


FIG. 21D

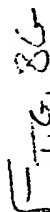
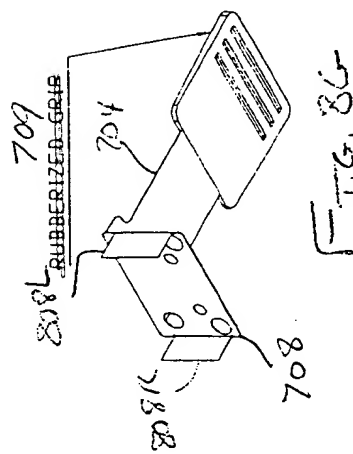
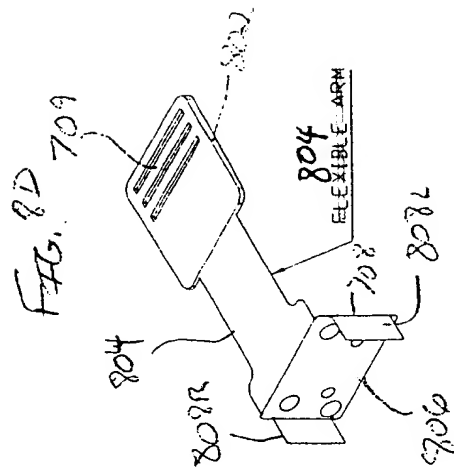
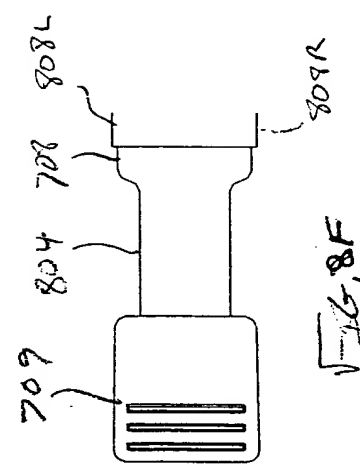
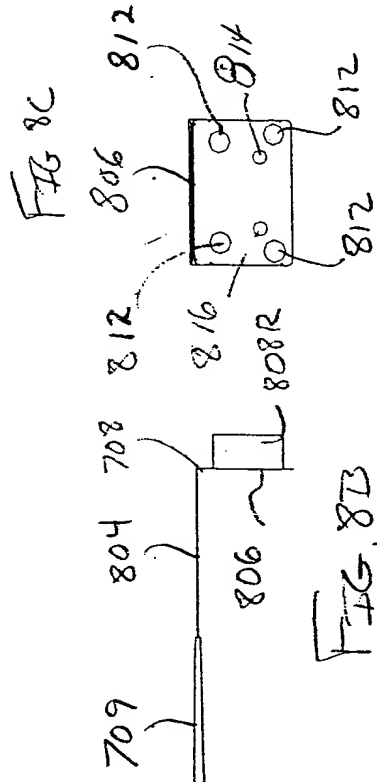
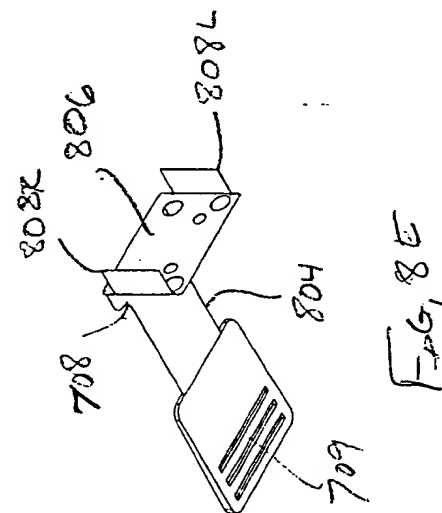
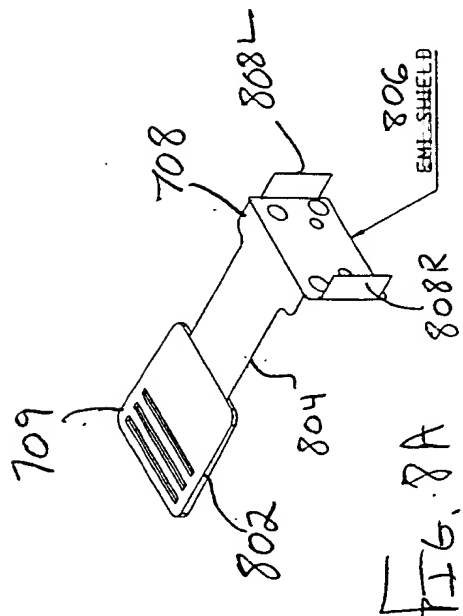
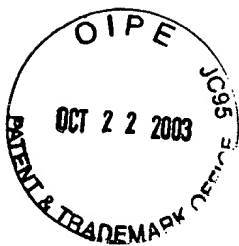


Appendix 2

ANNOTATED SHEETS OF AMENDED DRAWINGS

FIGURES

8A, 8D, 8G, 9A, 9G, 9I, 10A, 10D, 10E, 11C, 13A, and 18D



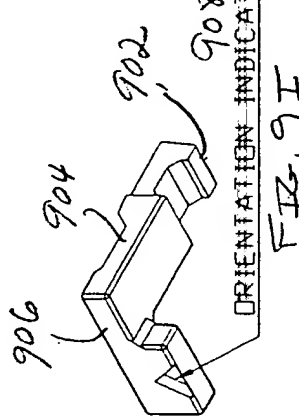
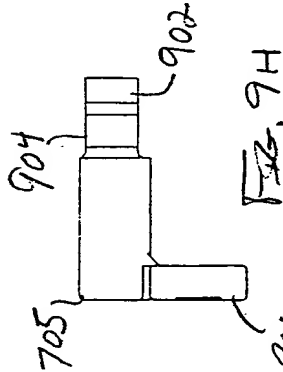
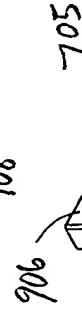
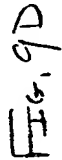
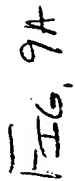
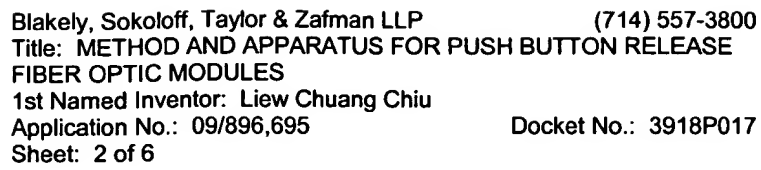


FIG. 10A

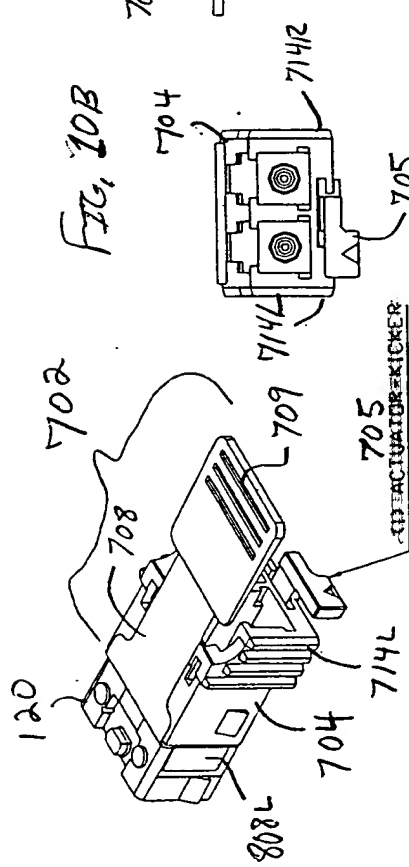


FIG. 10B

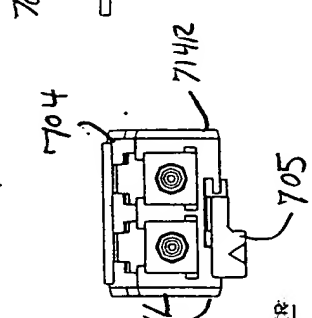


FIG. 10C

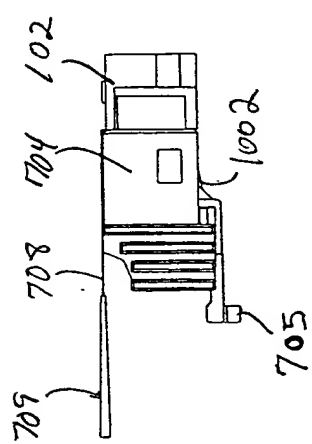


FIG. 10D

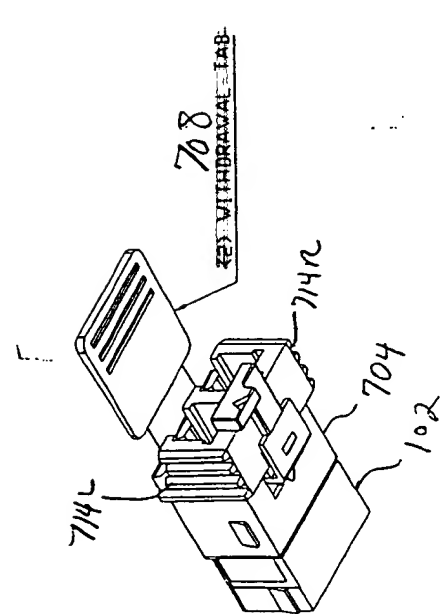
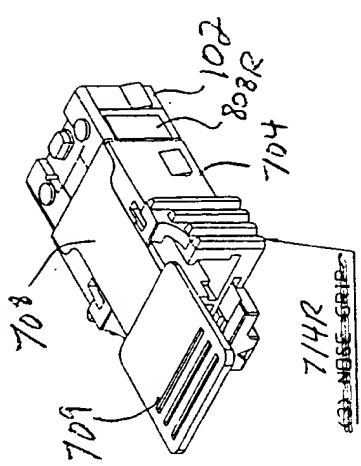


FIG. 10E

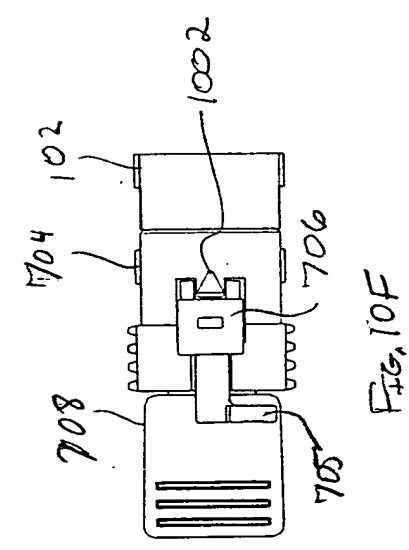


FIG. 10F

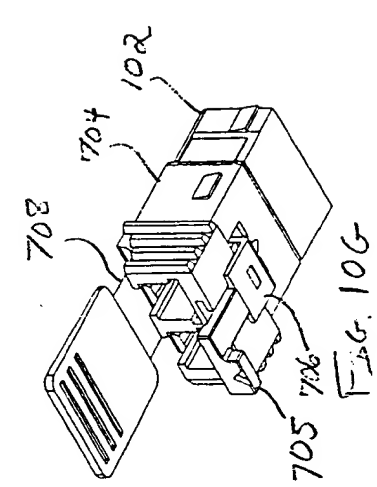
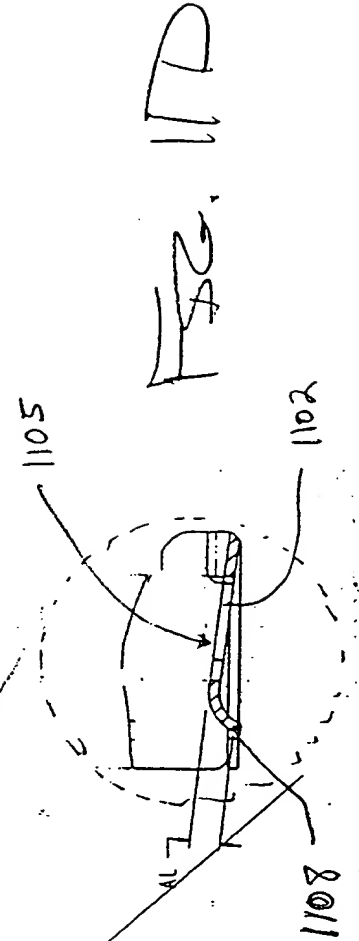
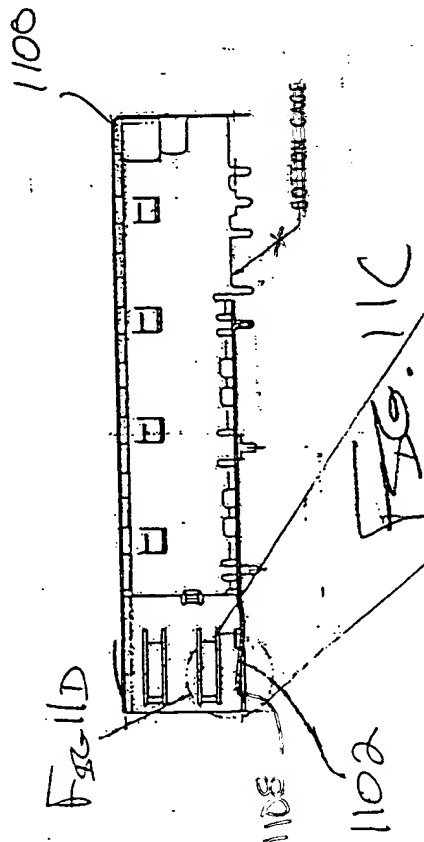
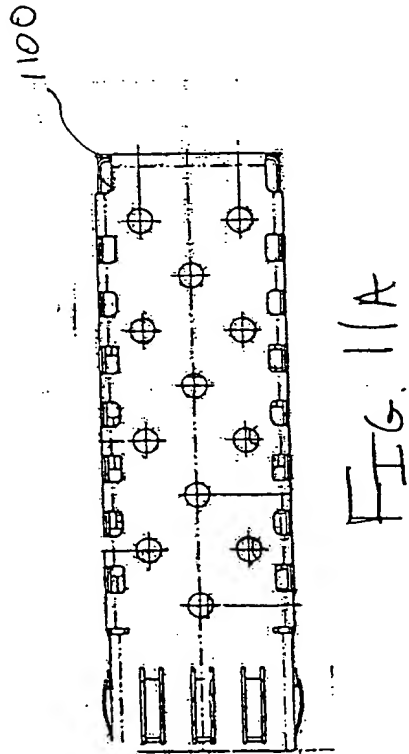
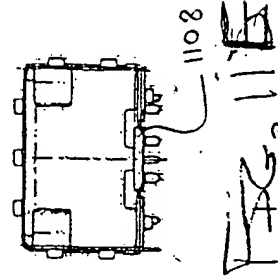
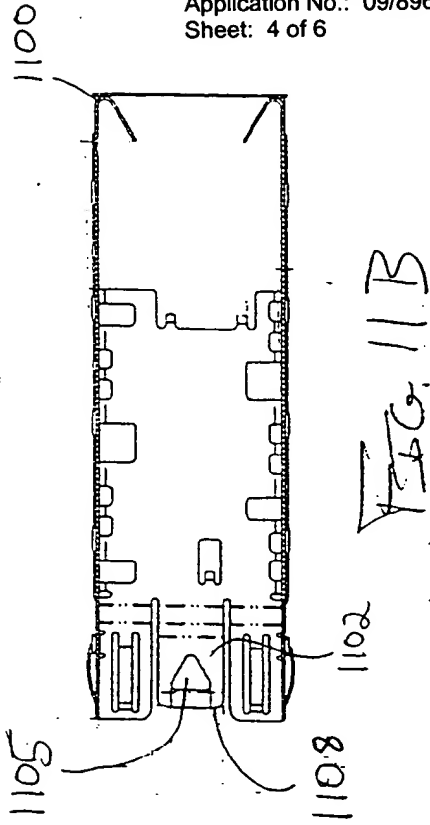
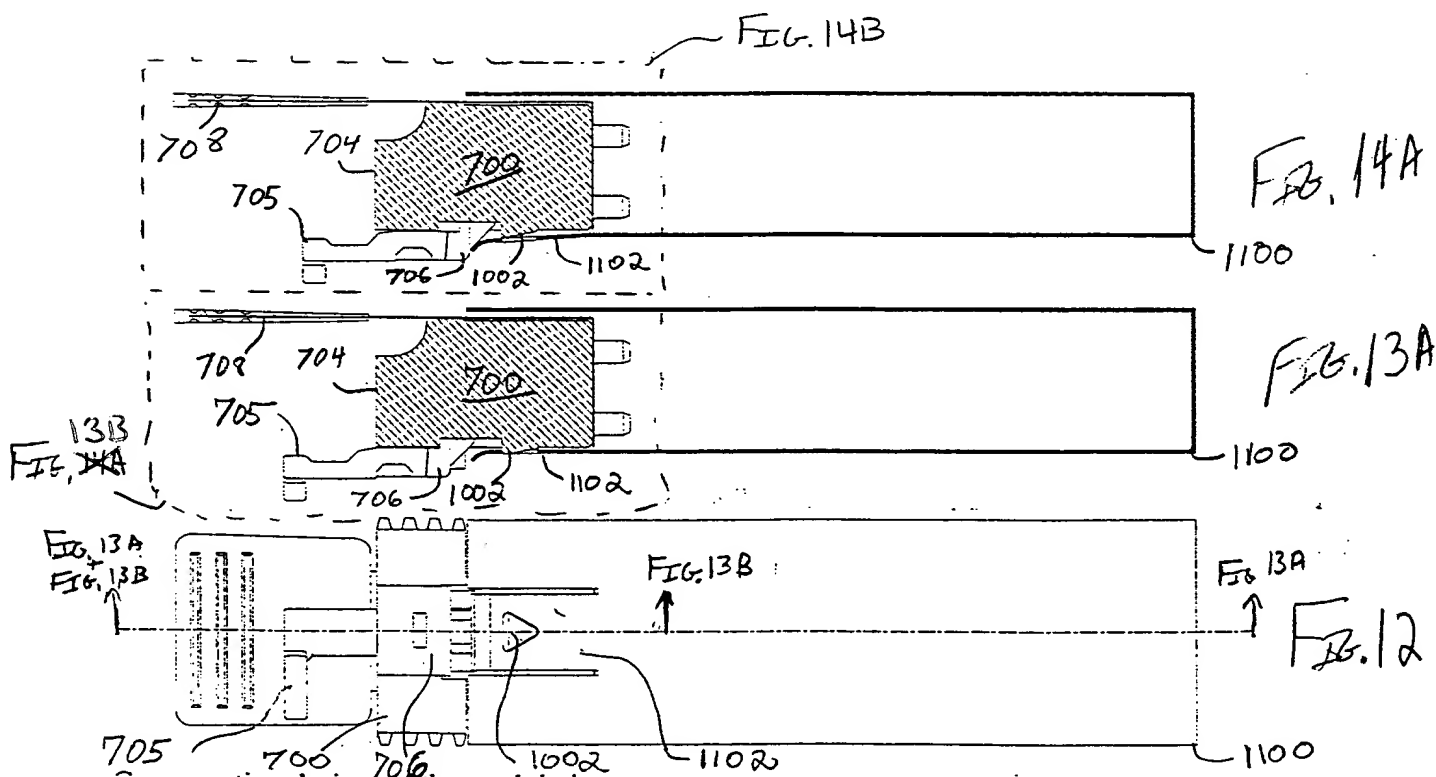
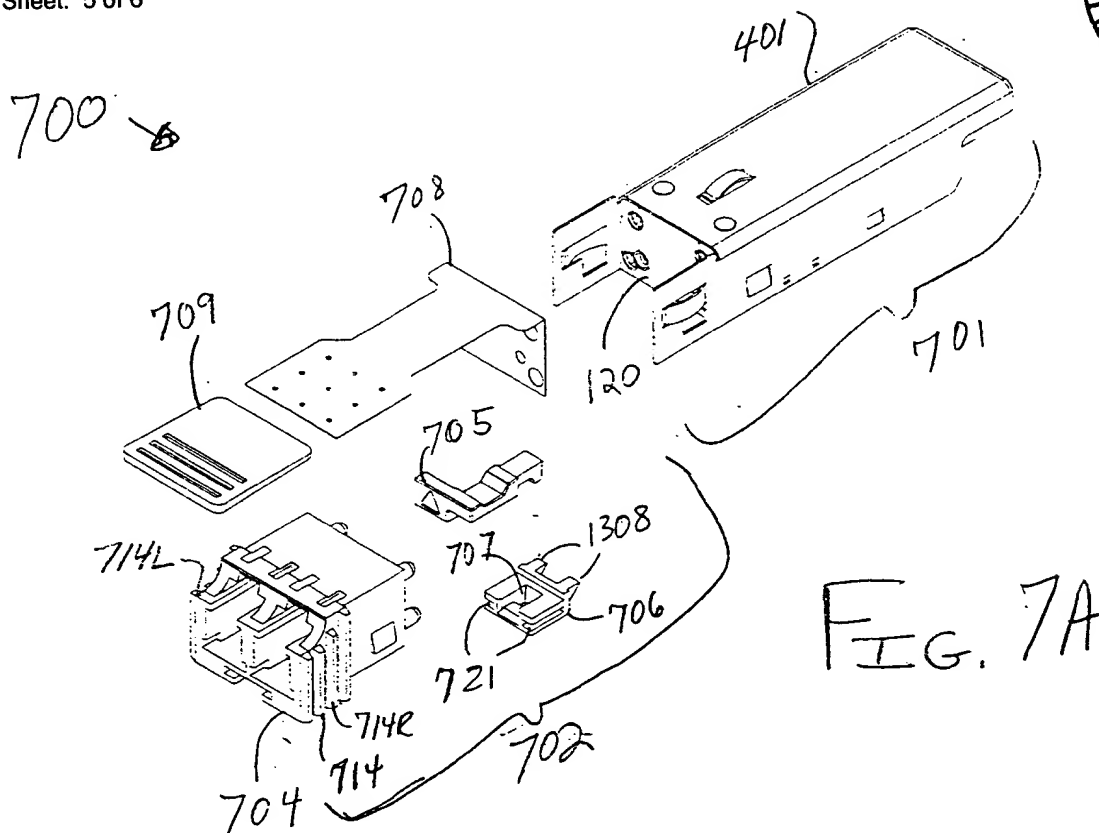
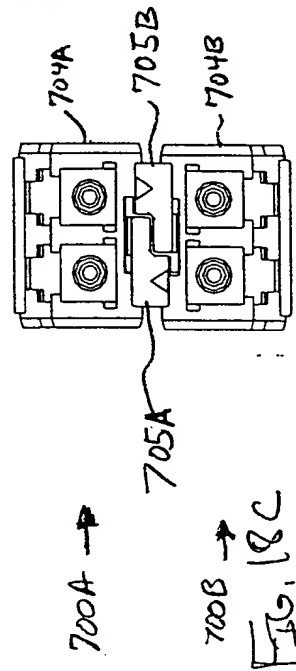
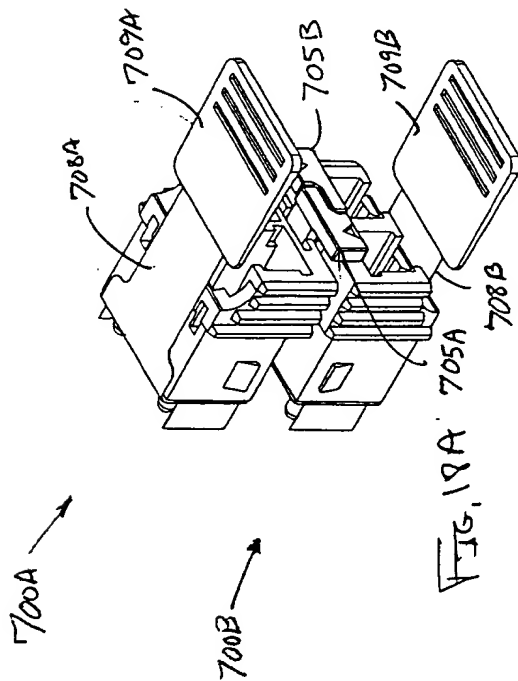
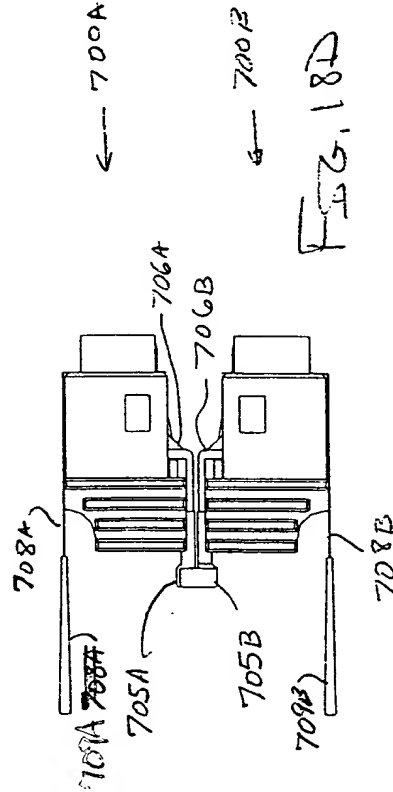
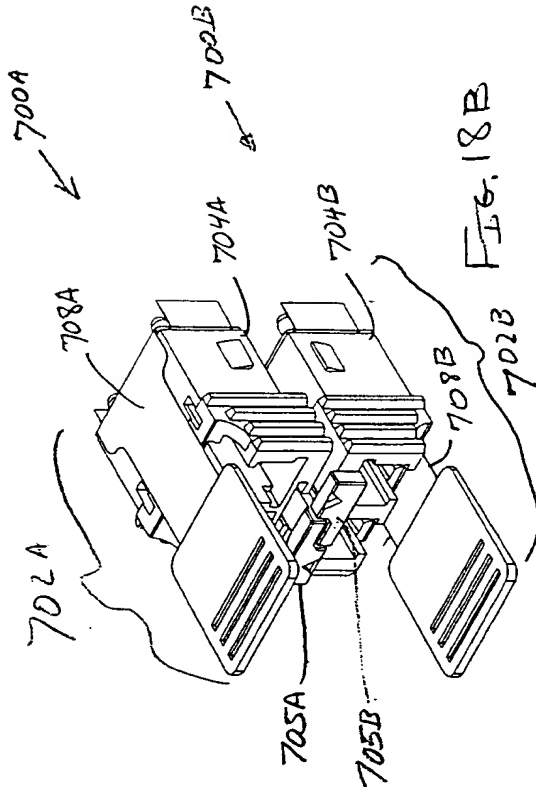


FIG. 10G









Appl. No. 09/896,695
Amdt. Dated **10/20/2003**
Reply to Office Action of 06/20/2003



Appendix 3

Electronic Information Disclosure Statement
filed on 05/07/2003
citing 16 US Patent Documents
1 Published Application

TRANSMITTAL FORM

Electronic Version 1.0.3

Stylesheet Version: 1.0

Submission Type: **Information Disclosure Statement**



Application Number: **09/896695**
Attorney Docket Number: **003918P017**

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PUSH BUTTON RELEASE FIBER OPTIC MODULES

First Named Inventor: **Liew Chuang Chu**

SUBMITTED BY

Name:

Registration Number:

Electronic Signature Mark:

William E. Alford

37,764

Date Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Alford".

Attached Files:

us-information-disclosure-statement

E20P017EIDSids.xml

Electronic Information Disclosure Statement

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PUSH BUTTON RELEASE FIBER OPTIC MODULES

Application: *09/896695*

09/896695

Confirmation: 9069

Applicant(s): Liew Chu

Docket
Number: 003918P017

Group Art Unit: 2874

Examiner: Lin, Tina m.

search string: (4734049 or 4779950 or 5820398 or 5931290 or 6142828 or 6186670 or 6229708 or 6231145 or 6276943 or 6406317 or 6422763 or 6430053 or 6434015 or 6494623 or 6554622 or 6556445 or 20020093796),pn.

US Patent Documents

Note: Applicant is not required to submit a paper copy of cited US Patent Documents

init	Citation No.	Patent Number	Date	Bar Code	Patentee	Class	Subclass
	P01	4734049	1988-03-29	*4734049*	George, et al.		
	P02	4779950	1988-10-25	*4779950*	Williams		
	P03	5820398	1998-10-13	*5820398*	Stabroth, et al.		
	P04	5931290	1999-08-03	*5931290*	Wehrli, III et al.		
	P05	6142828	2000-11-07	*6142828*	Pepe		
	P06	6186670	2001-02-13	*6186670*	Austin, et al.		
	P07	6229708	2001-05-08	*6229708*	Corbin, Jr. et al.		
	P08	6231145	2001-05-15	*6231145*	Liu		
	P09	6276943	2001-08-21	*6276943*	Boutros, et al.		
	P10	6406317	2002-06-18	*6406317*	Li, et al.		
	P11	6422763	2002-07-23	*6422763*	Halbach, et al.		
	P12	6430053	2002-08-06	*6430053*	Peterson, et al.		
	P13	6434015	2002-08-13	*6434015*	Hwang		
	P14	6494623	2002-12-17	*6494623*	Ahrens, et al.		
	P15	6554622	2003-04-29	*6554622*	Engel, et al.		
	P16	6556445	2003-04-29	*6556445*	Medina		

Published Applications

Note: Applicant is not required to submit a paper copy of cited US Patent Documents

init	Citation No.	Patent Number	Date	Bar Code	Patentee	Class	Subclass
	U01	20020093796	2002-07-18	*20020093796*	Medina		

Remarks

(Remarks are not for responding to an office action.)

Applicants, in accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3), hereby submit this Electronic Information Disclosure Statement citing U.S. Patent Documents for consideration by the Examiner. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97, the submission of this Electronic Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability. This Electronic Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to a substantive examination of the claims. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b), no fee should be required for the filing of this Electronic Information Disclosure Statement. In the event it is determined that a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 02-2666. Applicants respectfully request that the cited documents be considered and that the form be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof be returned to Applicants' attorney of record.

Signature

Examiner Name	Date

Appendix 4

Electronic Information Disclosure Statement
filed on 05/15/2003
citing 4 US Patent Documents

OCT 22 2003

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPTElectronic Version 1
Stylesheet Version v1.1.1

Title of Invention

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PUSH BUTTON RELEASE FIBER OPTIC MODULES

Submission Type: Information Disclosure Statement

Application Number: 09/896695

09/896695

EFS ID: 40670

Server Response:

Confirmation Code	Message
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ICON1	9069
ISYS5	Filename= N/A BusinessRule= Validation System/Function Call Information. #Supporting Msg:Server unable to validate the Confirmaton/Application numbers at this time. They will be checked by PTO personnel later.

First Named Applicant: Liew Chiu

Attorney Docket Number: 3918P017

Timestamp: 2003-05-15 17:52:05 EDT

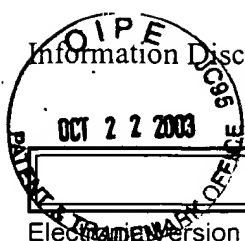
From: US

File Listing:

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package-data	us-package-data.xsl	19263
Total files size		70676

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Digital Certificate Holder Name: cn=William W. Schaal,ou=Registered Attorneys,ou=Patent and Trademark Office,ou=Department of Commerce,o=U.S. Government,c=US



ELECTRONIC INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Electronic Version v18

Stylesheet Version v18.0

Title of Invention

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PUSH BUTTON RELEASE FIBER OPTIC MODULES

Application Number: 09/896695 *09/896695*
 Confirmation Number: 9069
 First Named Applicant: Liew Chiu
 Attorney Docket Number: 3918P017
 Art Unit: 2874
 Examiner: Tina M. Lin
 Search string: (4083619 or 5195897 or 5256080 or 6533603),pn.

US Patent Documents

Note: Applicant is not required to submit a paper copy of cited US Patent Documents

init	Cite.No.	Patent No.	Date	Patentee	Kind	Class	Subclass
	1	4083619	1978-04-11	McCormick, et al.			
	2	5195897	1993-03-23	Kent, et al.			
	3	5256080	1993-10-26	Bright			
	4	6533603	2003-03-18	Togami	B1		

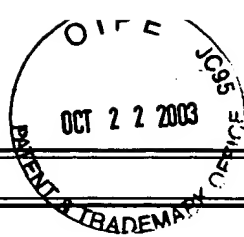
Remarks

Note: Remarks are not for responding to an office action.

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Signature

Examiner Name	Date



FEE TRANSMITTAL

Electronic Version v08
Stylesheet Version v08.0

Title of Invention

Application Number:

Date:

First Named Applicant:

Attorney Docket Number:

TOTAL FEE AUTHORIZED \$

Patent fees are subject to annual revisions on or about October 1st of each year.

AUTHORIZED BILLING INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Electronic Version v18
Stylesheet Version v18.0

OCT 22 2003

Title of Invention

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PUSH BUTTON RELEASE FIBER OPTIC MODULES

Application Number: 09/896695

09/896695

Confirmation Number: 9069

First Named Applicant: Liew Chiu

Attorney Docket Number: 3918P017

Art Unit: 2874

Examiner: Tina M. Lin

Search string: (4083619 or 5195897 or 5256080 or
6533603).pn.

US Patent Documents

Note: Applicant is not required to submit a paper copy of cited US Patent Documents

init	Cite.No.	Patent No.	Date	Patentee	Kind	Class	Subclass
	1	4083619	1978-04-11	McCormick, et al.			
	2	5195897	1993-03-23	Kent, et al.			
	3	5256080	1993-10-26	Bright			
	4	6533603	2003-03-18	Togami	B1		

Remarks

Note: Remarks are not for responding to an office action.

Applicants, in accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3), hereby submit this Electronic Information Disclosure Statement citing U.S. Patent Documents for consideration by the Examiner. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97, the submission of this Electronic Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability. This Electronic Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to a substantive examination of the claims. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b), no fee should be required for the filing of this Electronic Information Disclosure Statement. In the event it is determined that a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 02-2666. Applicants respectfully request that the cited documents be considered and that the form be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof be returned to Applicants' attorney of record.

Signature

Examiner Name	Date